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Capt. Davis

35TH CONGRESS,
1st Session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Ex. Doc.
No. 64.

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From N. Dept.
Aug 11

EXECUTION OF COLONEL CRABB AND ASSOCIATES.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

*Official information and correspondence in relation to the execution of
Colonel Crabb and his associates.*

FEBRUARY 16, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

I herewith transmit a report from the Secretary of State, with the accompanying documents, in reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 18th ultimo, requesting to be furnished with official information and correspondence in relation to the execution of Colonel Crabb and his associates within or near the limits of the republic of Mexico.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, February 12, 1858.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 12, 1858.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 18th ultimo, requesting the President "to furnish, if in his opinion not inconsistent with the public interest, all official information and correspondence in the possession of any of the Executive departments of the government, in relation to the execution or massacre of Colonel Crabb and his associates within or near the limits of the republic of Mexico, giving the names of the persons whose lives were taken; whether certain citizens of the United States were not so executed or massacred by the Mexican authorities within the limits of the United States, under pretext that they were connected with said Crabb's expedition; and what steps,

if any, have been taken by the Executive in relation thereto," has the honor to lay before the President the papers referred to in the subjoined list.

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS CASS.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

List of documents.

1. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass, No. 32, April 24, 1857.
2. Same to same, No. 33, April 25, 1857. Enclosures.
3. Same to same, No. 34, April 28, 1857. Enclosure.
4. Same to same, No. 35, April 30, 1857. Enclosure.
5. Same to same, No. 37, May 7, 1857.
6. Same to same, No. 40, June 1, 1857. Enclosure.
7. Mr. Appleton to Mr. Forsyth, No. 23, June 17, 1857.
8. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass, No. 44, July 8, 1857. Enclosures.
9. Mr. Cass to Mr. Floyd, July 25, 1857.
10. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass, No. 46, July 27, 1857.
11. Same to same, No. 47, September 3, 1857. Enclosures.
12. Mr. Cass to Mr. Forsyth, No. 29, September 14, 1857.
13. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass, No. 51, Sept. 26, 1857. Enclosures.
14. W. F. Evans to same, August 28, 1857. Enclosures.
15. Mr. Appleton to Mr. Evans, September 4, 1857.
16. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass, No. 54, October —, 1857.
17. Mr. Cass to Mr. Evans, October 20, 1857.
18. Mr. Evans to Mr. Cass, November 3, 1857.
19. Mr. Cass to Mr. Forsyth, No. 32, November 7, 1857.
20. L. W. Evans to the President, November 27, 1857.
21. Mr. Cass to L. W. Evans, December 12, 1857.
22. Same to W. F. Evans, December 12, 1857.
23. W. F. Evans to Mr. Cass, December 21, 1857.
24. L. W. Evans to same, December 25, 1857.
25. Mr. Cass to W. F. Evans, December 28, 1857.
26. Same to Mr. Floyd, January 21, 1858.
27. Mr. Floyd to Mr. Cass, January 25, 1858. Enclosures.

[Extract]

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 32.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, April 24, 1857.

SIR: The Mexican papers have been filled, for two months past, with rumors of a filibustering expedition from California, under one General Crabb, against Sonora. As we have no commercial or con-

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sular agents in that part of the republic, I am without other information on the subject than I can gather from the California and Mexican journals. The minister of relations has, upon several occasions, inquired of me what advices I had on a subject which gives the government a good deal of concern. While I have not been able to add to his stock of information, I have taken occasion to assure him that expeditions of this character against the sovereign rights of Mexico, were viewed by my government with displeasure, and would be prevented, so far as it was in its power to do it. I think there is little doubt that a body of armed men from California—some three hundred in number, and the advance guard of a larger force—are on their march to, if not already arrived in, Sonora. If so, we have the beginning of a series of personal tragedies which will impose a serious and delicate duty on this legation. In the natural course of the conflict between the invaders and the Mexican troops, some of our misguided countrymen will fall into the hands of the latter, and will, doubtless, be summarily dealt with. In such a contingency I should be glad to have the instructions of my government how far to interfere in their behalf. In the absence of instructions, I should hold it to be my duty to demand for them a fair and regular trial, and if condemned, to use my influence, official and personal, to save their lives, not as a demand of right, but as a matter of grace and policy. The expeditionists have certainly chosen an unfortunate time for their movements as regards the interests of the United States in their relations with Mexico. The invasion is calculated to produce an unhappy influence, adverse to the efforts which I have constantly and perseveringly made to eradicate from the Mexican mind the deeply-seated distrust of Americans, and to establish in its stead a confidence in the friendly and honorable sentiments of our government and people towards them. My observation has taught me to believe that nothing but this distrust and fear of our people has prevented the States bordering on the United States—especially those like Chihuahua and Sonora, overrun by savages and receiving no protection from the Mexican government—from breaking their feeble ties with the central government, and seeking, in annexation with us, that security for life and property of which they are now wholly destitute. The people of Mexico have been taught to believe, from the examples cited to them in California and Texas, that their proper titles, especially to land, would not be respected by their new rulers. I have the opinions of the most intelligent men I meet here, that this circumstance alone has saved to the republic of Mexico the fidelity of Tamaulipas, New Leon, Chihuahua, and Sonora. * * * * *

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 33.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, April 25, 1857.

Sir : Since my despatch of yesterday, the government paper, "El Estandarte Nacional," has published some official documents relating to the invasion of Sonora, which leave but little doubt of the purposes—hostile to Mexico—of H. A. Crabb and his armed party. I transmit herewith the "Estandarte" of the 24th instant, which shows the information in possession of the government, and the measures that have been taken to repel the invaders. I also enclose a French version, from the "*Trait d'Union*," of Mr. Crabb's communication* to the prefect of the district of Altar, which covers with a very thin disguise the lawless purposes of that leader.

This government will doubtless expect, and have a right to expect, that the United States government does not view with indifference this indefensible invasion of its territories by expeditions fitted out on the soil of a friendly power.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c. &c.

[* *Note by Department of State.*—Mr. Crabb's communication, translated from the *Spanish* version, will be found with the accompaniments to this despatch.]

[Translated from "El Estandarte," of Mexico, of April 24, 1857]

No. 129.]

DEPARTMENT OF WAR AND MARINE.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GENERAL IN CHIEF OF THE FORCES OF THE WESTERN STATES.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: For the superior knowledge of the most excellent the President, I enclose to you copies of the latest documents which I have received from Sonora in regard to the filibuster invasion. By them your superior authority will perceive that the parties of adventurers who were some time since announced as organizing themselves at San Francisco, in Upper California, have begun to trample on Mexican territory. By the same documents his excellency the President will also be made acquainted with the precautions which have been taken, and are being taken, in order to punish the audacity of those pirates who think to outrage with impunity the honor of the Mexican republic by taking possession of one part of it like bandits. But they will pay dearly for their rash enterprise.

God and liberty.

JOSÉ MARÍA YAÑEZ.

PORT OF MAZATLAN, *April 10, 1857.*

The CHIEF CLERK,

Intrusted with the Department of War.

No. 1.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL AND OF INSPECTION FOR THE STATE OF SONORA.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: Until yesterday it was asserted in this port that the expedition of filibusters gotten up against this State would not finally go into effect, notwithstanding some parties had appeared on the frontier line near the town of Sonoyta, but I have just received the communication and documents which are addressed to me by his excellency the governor of the State, and copies of which I have the honor to enclose to your excellency, by which it appears that the gathering of those pirates continues to increase; that their depredations have begun in the district of El Altar; that they are trying to advance, and, as is asserted, that a body of them have it in contemplation to take possession of this port.

Such rumors have caused a natural alarm, and already the most active and efficient measures have been adopted, and are being adopted, as well by the governor of the State as by this general command, to repel and chastise said pirates, as your excellency will be pleased to suppose from the rest of the communications which I send you in relation to the subject, there being included a copy of the reply which I have made to his excellency Señor Pesquera on this date.

God and liberty.

LOUIS NORIEGA.

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

His Excellency the GENERAL IN CHIEF

Of the forces of the Western States, Mazatlan.

No. 2.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Commander in Chief of the forces which are to operate on the frontier.

I say to-day to the prefect of Hermosillo what follows:

“Under this date I say to the prefect of El Altar:

““In view of your communications dated the 23d and 24th, which were received to-day—the former by conveyance of Robledo, and the latter by extraordinary express—this government has adopted such precautions as may cause to be found in your district, in the briefest possible time, a respectable division, and one that is sufficient to repress and exemplarily punish the filibuster invasion.

““Taking up the line of march this very day, Señor Jiron, with an escort of ten dragoons, will arrive at your town three or four days

sooner than the auxiliary captain of cavalry, Don Hilario Gabilondo, and than Lieutenant Don Lorenzo Rodriguez, who has orders to make a forced march with sixty horsemen and ninety infantry of the company of Barispe, and seventy national soldiers from Opodepe, Tuape, and Cucurpe; and meanwhile the commandant of battalion of the same national guard, Don Rafael Corella, receives orders to follow with three hundred men from the district of Arizpe, including the veteran force from Santa Cruz. From Hermosillo will proceed another force as soon as the political authorities of that place receive the late news, which is communicated to them by extraordinary express; and at that point will be concentrated the reserved forces, excepting a body of that reserve which will move from Arizpe under orders of the adjutant inspector.

"To-morrow morning, very early, Sergeant Bernardo Robledo will set out, carrying with him three arrobas of powder, four thousand cartridges of fifteen adarmes, one hundred and fifty flints, not including two thousand altered cartridges, which will be carried by the party which leaves with Señor Gabilondo. It is very important that you should adopt measures to see that the apprehension of Don Jesus Maria Ainza is effected, as his letter manifests his complete understanding with the enemies of our country.'

"I transcribe the foregoing for your knowledge, and to the end that you may immediately cause to leave for Guaymas the hundred infantry whom you have orders to send to the commanding general, and for the district of El Altar the force of cavalry which you may be able to enlist, without loss of time, and which you will place at the disposal of the lieutenant colonel of cavalry, Don José Maria Jiron, commander in chief of the division which is to operate in that district."

And I enclose the whole for your understanding, annexing twelve copies of communications from the prefecture of El Altar and their relative papers, together with two other communications, numbered 13 and 14, which have at a late hour been received from the prefect of San Ignacio.

God and liberty.

IGNACIO PESQUEIRA.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

His Excellency the

COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE, *Guaymas.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 3.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

No. 1.—*Prefecture of the district of the town of El Altar.*

ALTAR, March 23, 1857.

EXCELLENT SIR: In charge of the citizen Bernardo Robles, ten national soldiers are proceeding to this city, conducting seven draught mules, with the design that there shall be formed the armament and park which, in my communication of the 19th instant, I have presumed to suggest to your superior authority.

By the official despatch, numbered 1, of which I duly enclose you a copy, your excellency will perceive that at this date, at the point of Sonoyta, the party of filibusters who are attempting hostilities against Sonora must number one hundred and fifty. As, in my aforesaid communication, I bind myself to pay attention to the foreigners who have purchased cattle of Don Dionisio Gonzalez, and to the lies which were circulating about them, I will inform your excellency that, before being summoned for examination, they presented themselves, making known that it had come to their knowledge that there was an endeavor to embarrass their progress on account of the lies which were in circulation; that they presented themselves with the expectation that suitable orders would be given to them; that they would do nothing else than respect such orders, because they are not engaged in the cause of the bandits, whom they detest and whose conduct they reprobate. On this account this prefecture continued on civil terms with them; and, on the necessary investigations being made, it has become known that such reports or falsehoods were put in circulation by two servants whom the foreigners brought with them from Hermosillo, Rosario Andrade and Ignacio Miranda, who took to flight, carrying with them three horses, marked with the number 8, and two six-shooter pistols, one of which bore the name of J. N. Zykuis. The said foreigners solicit that the fugitives may have warrants issued against them, and that they be apprehended and made to testify what reason they had for imputing to them connexion with said bandits; that from the acts mentioned, committed by said fugitives on them, they could do no less than believe that the accommodation they afforded was in order to rob them, and that they scattered such lies beforehand, doubtless, to escape the prosecution which would naturally follow their criminality; and they asked, consequently, that they themselves may be allowed to continue their journey, leaving to represent their rights Don Miguel Zepeda, a merchant of this place.

While engaged in writing this letter, there has been received from Caborca the official and special despatch, of which I enclose you a copy. On an examination of the youths of whom it speaks, they have

only corroborated the information mentioned in the despatches to which I refer.

On the presentation of the two letters, the originals of which I annex, one directed to Don Agustin Ainza, and the other to Mr. James Dotin, they were intercepted on account of being addressed to suspicious persons; and there is no possible doubt, from the translation of those letters, that the undertaking of filibusterism is treated of in them.

It seems to me opportune to state to your excellency that Don Ignacio Vazquez, of this district, a person of honesty, has repaired to this prefecture, and made known that, being on his way to California, he touched at Sonoyta, where he received information that a party of a hundred and odd filibusters were making their way from the Colorado towards Sonora, by the road which he had to pass; and that being fearful that they might disarm him or commit some outrages on him, he was disposed to turn back—a circumstance which came to the knowledge of Don Jesus Ainza—and that, in conversations, this person encouraged them to continue on their road, assuring them that they would meet with no obstacle, and giving to him a letter of recommendation to the leaders of that force; that he also assured him that within a short time respectable forces would be introduced through Guaymas and the creek of Lobos, and that Sonora must be taken.

All which I do myself the honor to communicate to your excellency for your superior knowledge, supplicating you to exert yourself to lend promptly the aid which, under such a necessity, I ask, of a veteran force, pecuniary means, arms, powder, and percussion caps, which last are also necessary for the arms that are in this district.

God and liberty.

JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF THE STATE, *Ures*.

URES, March 28, 1857.

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, Secretary.

GUAYMAS, March 31, 1857.

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, Secretary.

No. 4.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Wardenship of the real of Sonoyta.

SONOYTA, March 18, 1857.

On this day Don Antonio Ortiz, an inhabitant of El Altar, and Don José Ortiz, an inhabitant of the town of Santa Anna, on the Rio

Colorado, have arrived here, and give an account of the force I have before mentioned. They say that there are a hundred and fifty men, well armed. They also say that they come at the orders of Don Manuel M. Gandara; that as to the water it runs too strong for landing in the port of Lobos, having heard this from the men themselves.

This force, they say, set out for this point on the 11th of the present month, by the road of the Cabeza Prieta.

I am of opinion they will arrive here to-morrow or the day after.

To-morrow morning these two gentlemen leave for the town of Caborca; through them you will be informed of the intentions of that force.

Which I make known to this prefecture for whatever course may be necessary.

God and liberty.

RAFAEL VELASCO.

To the PREFECT OF THE TOWN OF EL ALTAR.

ALTAR, *March 23, 1857.*

A copy.

JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1847.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 5.

OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

First court of Caborca.

CABORCA, *March 22, 1857.*

At this moment, which is at three o'clock in the afternoon, José Ortiz, an American, and Antonio Ortiz, have just arrived from the Rio Colorado. The latter I summoned to my court for the purpose of questioning him circumstantially about filibusters, and he said he would tell what he knew. That, being at the Rio Colorado, a party of a hundred and thirty American filibusters, all mounted, arrived, with the object of waging hostilities against Sonora, bringing with them two wagons loaded with provisions, and one with munitions; that in Sonoyta their corps was to form, as he learned, and that from

that point they were going to despatch emissaries to the towns, as well to inform themselves of the position they hold as to add a few persons to their number who acknowledged their pretensions. He also said that the greater part of the filibusters at the Rio Colorado had got drunk, together with some Americans who resided there; and that amid their glee they said that Sonora was theirs. He likewise says that, at the Rio, Don Juan, the carpenter, told him that a party of filibusters, to the number of five hundred, were to come by the way of Los Cobos.

Finding something suspicious in regard to the American mentioned, I have thought it proper to send him to you as a prisoner, in charge of the deponent and of Manuel Santa Cruz.

You will please immediately give me instructions what I am to do with the Americans who may touch at this town.

The deponent further says that he learned that one of the young Ainzas was coming with the force.

God and liberty.

To the PREFECT OF EL ALTAR.

A copy.

ALTAR, *March 22, 1857.*

JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

A copy.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

A copy.

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 6.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

CABORCA, *March 22, 1857.*

MY ESTEEMED FRIEND: Although, in the communication I sent you, I stated that the American would go to you as a prisoner, his departure is suspended to-day for the want of animals, but to-morrow morning I must send him, in order that you may determine what is proper and necessary. I forward you this information in order that you may lose no time in taking your precautions. I have omitted to add some further expressions to the same effect as those mentioned in my communication, because the deponents themselves will appear

before you, and when they do so will furnish you with further particulars of all they know.

I am going to give you another piece of news, which I have at this instant received from a Pápago who has just arrived from Sonoyta, and I will do so through an official communication.

I remain, your most devoted friend,

JESUS RIVERA.

Señor DON JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

POSTSCRIPT. The deponent, Antonio Ortiz, says they offered him five dollars to place six of the Americans in the port of Lobos.

ALTAR, *March 23, 1857.*

A copy.

JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 7.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

ALTAR, *March 23, 1857.*

MY DEAR COUSIN: Only with difficulty, and by redoubling my exertions, have I been able to succeed in sending the auxiliary troops. At ten o'clock of last night, (it being Sunday night,) according to previous agreement, they assembled, and they left this morning; the difficulties which presented themselves on account of a scarcity of funds having been overcome by my own means, which I have been able to offer promptly.

I have done the same thing for the construction of a park, furnishing five arrobas of lead, and one arroba and a half of powder; all that I had to provide for my ranchos.

Perhaps, when the storm is over, the government will indemnify me for these expenditures, for the amount of which I have serious need to meet my engagements at Hermosillo; but if not, I will sacrifice all with pleasure.

Although in one of the copies which I send, you will perceive that the justice asks for instructions what to do with the Americans who

may touch at his town, I tell you that it is only for the want of knowledge.

When an occasion arises, all the towns have very explicit orders to make all the investigations which are necessary, not only in regard to Americans, but in regard to anything which in anywise relates to their protection. Nevertheless, I shall to-day speak to them more to the point, in order not to lose time in questions and answers.

All the national forces of the district are already quartered. Now the quartering of the force in this town will be completed, for they are a most sluggish people, of little public spirit, and however much you may talk to them they will not lay aside their old grumbling, although it might seem otherwise.

Very, very important is the assistance which I ask of arms, &c., and especially of subaltern officers of respectability, who may be entrusted with the command. With this you may consider our triumph certain, and under other circumstances very hazardous.

I have told you before that my people needed a strange hand, and this remark I now repeat.

The scouts on the coast, thus far, furnish no news; if there should be any, you shall have it in season.

At an early period I engaged the general of the Pápagos to hold his people in readiness, and may be excused for this step, by which we gain him for us.

Finally, no means shall be spared to insure a triumph.

I conclude this letter because the complaints of the auxiliary troops about their want of money will not permit me to write, &c., &c., &c.

I am, with esteem, your affectionate cousin,

JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

Sr. DON IGNACIO PESQUEIRA.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 8.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

No. 6.]

SONOYTA, *March 12, 1857.*

ESTEEMED AUGUSTIN: I suppose you will think it strange that I did not write to you on my arrival at this point, but the reason of it was the extreme uncertainty in which I found myself on account of not finding here either Belknap or Dunbar, and I remained waiting for the latter to come from the river.

Four days ago Mr. Dunbar arrived from the river, and according to what he tells me there has been a considerable change in their affairs, for Belknap had a strong disagreement with his family in San Francisco, and as you know he was ordered to remove, more to die than to live, at La Paz, in Lower California. In this manner his business in California is entirely abandoned, for which reason Dunbar has sold all he had saved on the river, and thinks of commencing business anew at Calabazas or Tubac with his scattered affairs; and meanwhile I shall have to remain here one or two months, while there are mules sufficient to carry the whole load.

Encumbered as I am, Augustin, by all that I have just told you, and alone through the fault of Belknap and the suspension of business in San Francisco, you can imagine that I am not satisfied with my position; in the first place, because business is small, and in the next because I seem to have been born to be a slave to ambition. But perhaps within this time I may be inclined to proceed to Calabazas. On the other hand, I am not disposed to go to Hermosillo, and still less to Upper California; so that you can judge that I shall allow myself to be carried by the tide of fortune.

This strange and extravagant decision of mine will perhaps surprise you; but circumstances are such that I cannot determine to take either one or the other road, and will only bear the burdens of that which fate sends me. I have told you why I cannot adopt the first; and not the second, perhaps, because I shall have to encounter too many obstacles, which, with my character, would be more than equivalent to mountains. Therefore, I hope that in reply you will give me your opinion, considerably telling me what part I ought to take, bearing in mind only the happiness of a third, and not regarding mine. Be not surprised that I speak to you so obscurely, as I do not wish, if this letter should be opened, any one to know my troubles and my secrets, and it is only necessary that you should know my character, ambition, and convictions in order to understand me.

The country here is very quiet, and there is nothing but the noise of those who are going to Calabazas not to return. In that place many will be disappointed, as I know on good authority that the fort will not be built there, but between Tuezon, Calabazas, and Tubac, and that the great [Scenis anola jugy]* who conducts badly towards the government of Sonora, taking away property legally sold by the latter, and restoring it to the son of Gándara, and to the rebel of Ignacio Loayza.

It is some eight days since we had news that a considerable party of emigrants had arrived at the Rio Colorado, and that very soon they will be at this point, whither they are bound—"Tengan," say they. I do not know what to think of this expedition. What I know is, that [Mr. Cangarn Isthe-mayor and principal en of the expedition, and that he nant entain person of Lonvita to lok the place and yo lo the rivez atons particular be ninés.]* This is all I know about this party of myste-

* The words in brackets are literally as they appear in the Mexican newspaper from which this translation is made.—TRANSLATOR.

rious men who are coming to visit me within a fortnight at most; and, as soon as I am made acquainted with them, I will give you an exact idea of their ideas, indications, and acts.

Meanwhile the town is preparing to give them a perfect reception with their bucklers loaded with provisions, in order that their filibuster "doubloons" may be nailed there, and that the whole country may be lighted up with gold.

On my way by the town of Hermosillo, I perceived that this year was going to be one of the most terrible for Sonora, as there are no provisions anywhere, and therefore that many towns would be henceforth abandoned.

This is all a hermit can say from his cell, eating nothing but a crab; therefore I hope you will tell me what there is new in this world of God and liberty.

I forgot to tell you that I will draw on you for ten dollars, in favor of Nachilito or his son.

My regards to all. Adieu.

J. M. A.

P. S.—Direct my letters to Don Antonio Urrea, in order that they may come to Sonoyta free of postage.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

PORT OF MAZATLAN, *April 10, 1857.*

Copies.

F. CARRERA, *Secretary.*

No. 9.

OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Prefecture of the district of the town of El Altar.

ALTAR, *March 24, 1857.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: At this moment, which is at four o'clock in the afternoon, I have just received from the justice of the peace at Soni, and from the police warden at Sonoyta, despatches, the originals of which I have the honor to enclose to your excellency.

This prefecture perceives that the filibusters, after crossing the boundaries of the State, have committed unlawful acts against Mexi-

can interests, attacking, in a manner directly forbidden, the sacred rights of the property holders; and, from the mere fact, the inference is inevitable that there is no other remedy but to use defensive action against this rabble, calling out for this purpose the national forces of the towns of this district, in order that they may go to the encounter and immediately resist and repel them by force.

At this moment I address myself to the district of San Ignacio, soliciting the aid of an armed force, in order to put on the line of march the forces above mentioned; and, to the end of providing them with subsistence, I have thought I had no other resource but to require of the holders of seed grain (although very scarce) at once what might be needed to provision the troops, and, meanwhile, your superior authority will provide them with cash, arms, and other things which I have previously applied for.

This prefecture trusts that your superior authority will be exerted in lending, with the promptitude which the case demands, the assistance asked for, seeing that it is more and more needed at every instant, and that without it the possession of this district is probably very much exposed; and there is no kind of doubt that now is the time to put a stop to those wretches, as well because of the weakness of our forces as because of our condition, and its fatal want of provisions.

God and liberty.

JOSÉ MARIA REDONDO.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF THE STATE, *Ures*.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 10.

OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF SONORA.

Second court, supplying the town of Soni.

SONI, *March 23, 1857.*

Now, at ten o'clock at night, an express has just arrived from the wardenship of Sonoyta. By the official communication it bears to your excellency, you will be informed that the filibusters are coming into Agua Salada; and this court, receiving the same news, does not doubt it. You will decide what is most suitable.

I notify you that in this town we are almost entirely without arms and ammunition; not but that this neighborhood is in the best disposition to shed the last drop of its blood to sustain the government in behalf of union, and not to be sold, like the products of the soil, to foreigners.

Which I place at your knowledge in order that you may determine what is suitable, repeating to you that, as heretofore, we shall continue to exercise the greatest vigilance.

God and liberty.

ANTONIO VALENZUELA OROZCO.

To the PREFECT OF THE DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF EL ALTAR.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

CIRILO RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 11.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

First court of the town of Soni.

SONI, *March 24, 1857.*

Just now, at twelve o'clock at noon, I receive information from a scout who went to Sonoyta, he being paid by this neighborhood for that purpose; and he has brought news that the filibusters have arrived at Sonoyta, as you will better learn by the despatch which the warden of Sonoyta sends.

As I have also before me the order you sent to me on the 20th instant, in regard to all the lead there was in this place and its vicinity, and that I should send it forward and place it at the disposal of the prefecture under your charge, I hasten to give you information that there are no mules in this real to carry it, because, as I learn, there are sixty odd quintals of it. The only mules that are here are very unserviceable and defective, and the inhabitants merely rely on them to get away from this real, with their families and small amount of property, abandoning the little labors which afford them subsistence. This is what this town has determined, seeing that you adopt no measure to send us any relief; for if in this town, which is the principal, you take no step of the kind I have indicated, the place will be hopelessly depopulated.

Therefore you will please to give me advice, in order that, under the circumstances, I may act properly; for there is no doubt that

Sonora is exposed to a war, as you will better understand by the despatch which the warden of Sonoyta sends, and which I enclose to you by a swift courier, who will wait for your determination.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of the 23d I received your orders, and at twelve at night I received the despatch from Sonoyta which I have mentioned. Therefore I have not had time to examine how much lead there was; but some fifteen quintals, more or less, than what I say is the amount.

It is very important that you should order your subordinates to pay attention to the time of the expresses in passing, and to see that they move punctually; because the filibusters, whose invasion is reasonably apprehended, may really invade us while we are waiting for the express—a thing which will not happen if you inform those wardens whom it concerns that the journeys must be performed in the shortest possible time.

All the communications you send to me arrive after time.

God and liberty.

MIGUEL PEREZ,

First Justice of the Peace of Soni.

To the PREFECT OF THE DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF EL ALTAR.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 12.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Wardenship of the real of Sonoyta.

SONOYTA, *March 21, 1857.*

This day the scouts arrived at four o'clock in the afternoon.

They report that they (the filibusters) are at Agua Salada, at a place called Agua Dulce. About forty men arrived to-day at noon, but all of them had not yet arrived. In company with them was Pedro Cuvata, who joined them at the Agua de la Posa, where it runs towards the river.

To him they offered 50 per cent. of pay a month, and rent. The scouts learned this from himself, and they saw no more. The reason which Pedro gives is that this force is composed of eighty-eight men, well armed with guns, pistols, and knives. To questions which he

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asked them, some of them said they were going to Hermosillo and to Guaymas, and others said they were going to Calabazas to fight the Apaches. But he does not know their intentions; they bring no cannon, nor a wagon loaded with powder. They brought a wagon, he says, but in it he saw saddles and bridles, lead, and other articles. He also says they are badly off for animals, which they had to shoot on the road.

There are not at Agua Salada the number of eighty-eight men; for although they told Peter there were that many, thirty men had gone ahead; and these, I suppose, had gone by the way of the Gila.

Pedro also says that he learned from them that a force of four hundred men was going by water, and that at Calabazas they had some three hundred others, according to their account.

This is all that is known at present, but I shall be ready and quick to furnish an account of whatever may relate to said force on its arrival.

God and liberty.

RAFAEL VELASCO.

To the PREFECT OF THE TOWN OF EL ALTAR.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

MAZATLAN, *April 10, 1857.*

Copies.

FRANCISCO CARRERO, *Secretary.*

No. 13.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Wardenship of the real of Sonoyta.

MARCH 22, 1857.

I make known to your excellency that yesterday morning, at day-break, there arrived at the house of the American, Sr. Don Eduardo, where Don Jesus Ainsa is staying, ten Americans, of whom two styled themselves commanders. They came to my house, and asked me if I was a justice of this real; to which I replied yes. They then spoke

in their language to Señor Ainza, who said to me "These men say they notified the town that their coming is not with the intention of doing harm to any one; that they are in search of friends, and not of enemies; and that the business which brings them is further on, and not here, and that it is not as has been represented by some Mexicans and Americans, who arrived before them." At the same time he disclosed to me that he was very short of provisions for his followers; that he would regard it a favor to obtain a *carga* of flour; that it did suit him to hunt for it, as it was not necessary to part with it in case more than twenty dollars was wanted for it; that that was what he paid for a *carga*. Finally I spoke to Don José Mendez, the only person who had two *cargas*, but he refused to sell it at this price, and said it was worth twenty-four dollars. That was his price, which I informed this chieftain. They got angry when I told them, and went to the house of Mendez, as I also did. Finally, at the persuasion of Ainza, he gave them a *carga* at twenty-one dollars. After he had sent it to them they said they would take it by force.

At this moment a son of Mendez came from the valley, and told his father that the Americans had shot three head of cattle. He at once went to see them, and I followed. The statement was very true. Mendez recognized the cattle, one by the brand, another as belonging to Don Juan Ma. Gortaris, and another to young Arco, an Indian. Finally, he went and charged them twenty dollars for each head; they replied that it was all right, and that the cattle would be paid for by the great captain, who was behind. Thereupon I asked them if the two who were on the rancho were not captains, and they told me they were, but only small ones. The great captain brings plenty of gold; we have killed the cattle because we are very hungry.

Reflecting on this, I went and showed the two commanders that their people were killing cattle, that they had shot three; they replied that the value of them would be paid on the arrival of the rest of their people, and that the persons who had committed the offence would be punished.

In fine, they they have been arriving here all day. I have counted, from yesterday up to this morning at 8 o'clock, fifty-five men, armed, as I have before said. About this there is no doubt, as I have seen for myself, unless the remainder who are behind with their wagon should be differently armed. I suppose the thirty-three who are missing will arrive to-day, because they say there are eighty-eight of them. They have arrived very scatteringly. They have probably brought nothing but their arms, which were all fired off on the road. From themselves I learn that to-morrow they will proceed to Quitovaes, in the direction of Caborca. I am of opinion they will do this because of the scarcity of provisions here, and also because of the disabled who have arrived. They have made their quarters at the house of Don Jesus Estrella, and some at the house of Ainza. When encamped they are in the habit of using much vigilance, placing a sufficient number of sentinels; but on the road, I am informed by Pedro Cubata, they move with great disorder. They do not march like Mexican troops, but move along the road in scattering parties.

But all along the road they have continued to exercise their arms while on the march. Yesterday and to-day it has been reported that the commanding general of this party is a brother-in-law of Ainza; but this I have not been able to prove, because when I ask if it is so, they are annoyed at it; for which reason I suppose it is true, but they do not want it to be known.

This is all that has occurred thus far; if nothing prevents me, I am prepared to accompany them to Quitobac, to see what else I can learn, and report to your excellency, in order for whatever may be necessary.

God and liberty.

RAFAEL VELASCO.

The PREFECT OF THE TOWN OF EL ALTAR.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 14.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF SONORA.

SONI, *March 22, 1857.*

RESPECTED SIR: In regard to the mission which brings him to El Pozo, I could not learn anything for which I cared but what will shortly be communicated to you by the gentleman charged with delivering the cattle. Every one thinks it is cattle for the party that he comes for now, as the filibusters are certainly already in Sonoyta, and have killed cattle without paying for them, and done many other things which will shortly be reported to you in an official communication they are sending you. I tender you the aid of my services, and, at the same time, those of some forty odd other men whom I have detained here. I await your orders, and desire you to state the fact to his excellency the governor. The shortness of paper prevents me from giving you full particulars; in the meantime I am your very humble and very obedient servant,

CAMILO SILVAS.

Señor Don MIGUEL REDONDO.

URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 15.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

*Prefecture of the district of San Ignacio.*SAN IGNACIO, *March 27, 1857.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: After writing to your excellency the official note which is enclosed, I received by extraordinary express from the prefecture of El Altar an official communication, in which I am advised that the filibusters are now in Sonoyta, and assistance is asked from me, as it is thought the enemy are prosecuting their march into the interior.

I waited at once on the commandant of the line, Don Manuel Elias, who is at Imuris, as well as on the lieutenant commandant, Don Manuel Romero, handing to the latter a packet which that prefecture had sent to him.

I urged on the former that either he or Romero should take up the line of march for El Altar, with such a force as could be raised.

At Cucurpe, Tuape, and the towns on this river of San Ignacio, I invited persons to be ready on Sunday, the 29th, in the Magdalen; and it is my intention that the whole auxiliary force shall set out under the orders of that commander.

Once more I remind your excellency that there are in this district neither arms nor munitions of subsistence and of war, especially none of the latter. An extreme scarcity of food prevails among these towns, owing to an absolute failure of grain; for which reason I entreat your excellency to provide these indispensables for the force which is going into the field.

God and liberty.

JOSÉ ELIAS.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF THE STATE, *Ures.*URES, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary.*GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

No. 16.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

*Prefecture of the district of San Ignacio.*SAN IGNACIO, *March 23, 1857.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: One of the spies whom I have at Calabazas has, under date of the 19th instant, stated to me, among other matters, the following:

"In regard to my instructions about the filibusters, two hundred of them are on this side of the Colorado, and they say that five hundred more are coming by sea. Of those who are coming by land, an American of this camp, who has just arrived, has informed me that at Tuezon he learned it from four Americans, who arrived there, belonging to that force; from which it is calculated they will march in about the end of the month."

I received this news day before yesterday, and to-day Don Joaquin Quiroa has communicated to me that an American told him that he learned from those who are living at Calabazas and Tubac, that they are going to enter near the garrison of Imuris, three leagues to the north of this town.

I employ myself in gathering the data which is sent to me from the various localities in regard to the number of available men and arms, in order that I may communicate the facts to your excellency, as you have requested; and, from what I have gathered thus far, I notice that arms are much wanting, and that there are absolutely no munitions. Therefore, I entreat your excellency that you will be pleased to order these frontier towns to be provided for, so that they may be able to resist the movements of the invaders, and make war on them incessantly until our nationality shall be assured. I shall not relax my labors for an instant, for in the hearts of my fellow-citizens are preserved the patriotic fire and the enthusiasm which I inspire.

God and liberty.

MARCH 28, 1857.

A copy.

C. RAMIREZ, *Secretary*.

GUAYMAS, ——— 31, 1857.

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary*.

No. 17.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL AND OF INSPECTION FOR THE STATE OF SONORA.

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: The communication of your excellency, dated at Ures on the 28th, and sent to me by extraordinary express, informs me that the filibusters have commenced their hostilities in the district of El Altar, as well as of the measures which you have adopted to send forward forces to restrain and punish them.

Notwithstanding the steps which your excellency has taken are most appropriate and conformable to the art of war, I must not omit to recommend to you the propriety of fighting in detail these bands of pirates, without giving them a chance to unite; and this may be

done by means of surprises, taking advantage of their moments of rest and other favorable opportunities which present themselves, forming ambuscades to wait for them at the water-courses, trying to cut off their retreat, and, in fine, making war on them with all advantages and probabilities of success without compromising the lustre of the nation's arms.

God and liberty.

LOUIS NORIEGA.

His Excellency DON IGNACIO PESQUEIRA,
*Governor of the State and Commander of
the Forces operating on the Frontier.*

GUAYMAS, *March 31, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

PORT OF MAZATLAN, *April 10, 1857.*

Copies.

FRANCISCO CARRERO, *Secretary.*

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GENERAL-IN-CHIEF OF THE FORCES OF THE WESTERN STATES.

No. 134.]

PORT OF MAZATLAN, *April 10, 1857.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: By extraordinary express I transmit to your excellency a copy of the communications which the commanding general of Sonora has sent to me through a vessel which anchored yesterday in this port, and through another which arrived this morning, both from Guaymas, in relation to a vanguard of one hundred men, under command of the American, Mr. Henry A. Crabb, a brother-in-law of the Ainzas of Sonora, which body of men are now in the territory of the nation, committing hostilities on the settlements in the district of El Altar, on the frontier of the State of Sonora; while at the same time there has started a body of nine hundred adventurers, who by various modes of conveyance, as we know from evidence, are on their way to unfold the plan of the premeditated invasion by attacking different points at once, as will probably also be attempted in the port of Guaymas, in the neighborhood of which has been desecrated a vessel suspected of belonging to that expedition.

The printed letter which I enclose to your excellency, and which was addressed by Crabb to the prefect of El Altar, in its insolent language, and the defiance which it flings at a town of the republic, evidently reveals the unlawful intentions of those persons, and their firm purpose to consummate the aggression which they have begun to commit against the most sacred rights and the integrity of the national territory.

The importance of these events compels me to overlook the serious nature of my infirmities, and to postpone everything to the defence of our country's cause, the operations of which I am going personally to direct. For this purpose I am hastening to undertake a forced march through that State, going by land, because in going by sea, owing to contrary winds, I should be less quick in accomplishing what I propose. I only order one division to be embarked under the orders of General José Velasquez de la Cadena, which will be composed of seventy men of the permanent battalion of this port, with three pieces of artillery of eight pound calibre, and forty artillerymen, with the park and a sufficiency of munitions, fifty casks of powder, and other warlike stores, besides those which I have forwarded in advance to that State, all of which it would be impossible for me to carry with ease in the double marches which I am going to undertake.

I am only detained by some arrangements which I am making in order to obtain resources to start with, seeing that the president of the board of public credit has by his, circular No. 152, of the 13th ultimo, communicated to the collector of customs here that the powers granted by the supreme government to his excellency General Parrodi and myself, as generals-in-chief, are no longer in force. I am fighting a thousand difficulties at each instant in order to succeed in the most urgent of the objects which engage my attention.

The present condition of Sonora, the integrity of whose soil is threatened by the covetousness of audacious adventurers, the unheard-of recklessness with which those adventurers challenge the authorities to the contest, and the honor and rights of our country, highly interested in the prompt and severe punishment of an attempt which is as gratuitous as it is criminal, compel me to seek the necessary means, although prudently, to place under march the assistance I have mentioned, and to start myself, holding myself responsible for my acts, for the sacred cause of preserving an important part of the republic in the national unity, requires promptitude and seasonableness in order to render the triumph effective; and your excellency may assure the most excellent President that in the performance of this imperious duty I will overcome every obstacle.

I leave in this port the remainder of the artillery, which is strengthened with the scant force furnished by the squadrons of Cordova and Mazatlan, hardly sufficient to perform garrison duty, since of what there was I have covered Lower California, and detached to Sonora the force I have mentioned, for which reason it would tend to the preservation of the public tranquillity, and to the security of the state, if the most excellent President would direct that of the troops that are in Jalisco one battalion at least should supply the want of those who have left, and in part take the place of those who were withdrawn from Lower California, in order to prevent the happening of any event through the want of a respectable armed force.

I must call your excellency's attention to the fact that Crabb, in his letter dated at Sonoyta, states that he presents himself in conformity to the rules which have been adopted in regard to colonization, and that confiding in them his party of emigrants have undertaken their

journey. It is evident that he appeals to a pretext as futile as illegitimate, for on it rest the very advanced views which have inspired such well founded alarm in Sonora ; but as I am desirous that in all our proceedings the most indisputable justice may be on our side, and in order to prevent important consequences of grave origin, I will thank your excellency to communicate anything you may deem proper on this point with all possible despatch, as events must be precipitated with velocity when once the filibusters are in the field.

I request your excellency to report circumstantially to the most excellent President all that I have set forth, and to receive the assurance of my esteem and consideration.

God and liberty.

JOSÉ M. YANEZ.

His Excellency the MINISTER OF WAR AND MARINE, *Mexico*.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL AND OF INSPECTION OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

. GUAYMAS, *April 4, 1857.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR : I have the honor to enclose to your excellency, for your superior knowledge, a copy of the communication dated the 30th ultimo, which was sent to me by extraordinary express from Ures, by his excellency the governor, relative to the filibusters who are committing hostilities in the district of El Altar, numbering one hundred men, under the command of Mr. Crabb, and asking of me in consequence thereof assistance in cash and munitions of war for the force designed to restrain the abuses and depredations of those pirates.

The demands of the service are continually nullified, expenditures being required for the support of the various parties of the national guard, which are in movement, as well to aid the invaded district as to garrison this post, where there are already two companies of the national guard from Alamos, and one is to arrive to-day from Hermosillo.

The governor's request for munitions has been complied with ; this being all that has happened up to the time of sailing of the vessel which conveys this letter.

God and liberty.

LUIS NORIEGA.

His Excellency the GENERAL-IN-CHIEF
of the forces of the Western States.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Commander-in-chief of the forces which are to operate on the frontier.

URES, March 30, 1857.

I enclose you a copy of the communications which have arrived by extraordinary express up till noon of to-day, received lately from the prefect of El Altar; also some twenty-five copies of the letter which Mr. Crabb, the leader of the filibustering expedition, addressed from Sonoyta to the prefect of El Altar, and the same number of copies of the proclamation with which I this afternoon saluted the brave veterans and national troops of the garrison, inviting them to go forth to meet those infamous adventurers.

The perusal of those documents will give you a perfect idea of our condition, on account of which I have directed the forces which have set out to relieve that district to continue their forced marches.

In order to set out myself for the same purpose, I am only waiting for the assistance which I have asked from you, which should come as soon as possible, on account of the pressing circumstances in which we find ourselves.

God and liberty.

IGNACIO PESQUEIRA.

His Excellency the COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE,

Guaymas.

GUAYMAS, April 2, 1857.

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Prefecture of the district of the town of El Altar.

ALTAR, March 26, 1857.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: The district being threatened by a mob of foreigners who, under no legal character, precipitate upon us a struggle in defence of our cherished rights, this prefecture has been compelled to adopt such measures as seemed suitable in the defence of the State and for the security of its inhabitants, which measures it has the satisfaction to believe your superior authority will approve, seeing that they have emanated under circumstances of extreme urgency; and for this purpose it proposes to narrate them.

When they crossed the boundary of our country, and were committing unlawful acts in Sonoyta against the property of our countrymen, which, according to the official despatch from the warden of the point mentioned, that I sent your excellency an account of by extraordinary express, there is no doubt took place, and the force of filibusters was advancing on Caborca, I ordered the national guard of the district to be armed and assigned quarters, and provided myself with means for their subsistence by exacting loans according to the list of which I have the pleasure of enclosing your excellency a copy. In the towns of the district I authorized the justices to provide themselves with the necessary means for the same purpose.

I likewise gave orders that, in the towns and wardenships of this district, the customary levies should be made, to the end that all animals, whether horses or mules, the property of whomsoever they might be, should be brought to this post in order that there might be selected from them such as were necessary to supply the appropriate force; and, finally, to prevent any outrages being committed in the small settlements by the wicked horde which is invading us, I arranged that the settlers should concentrate at the towns—that is, such of them as were inside of and distant from the line of Sonoyta—seeing that the robbers would reach them, and they were short of weapons, military stores, and even hands to repel them, and that this prefecture, owing to the want of arms and officers, could not send them assistance, although the towns are in excellent disposition to defend themselves, and have even solicited permission to go out to the encounter, as will be seen by Nos. 1 and 2, which I enclose to your excellency; but I was unable to consent, not having the arms requisite to supply a sufficient force that would place beyond doubt the triumph which is so necessary.

What I have set forth, most excellent sir, will demonstrate the just reasons I had for adopting the measures I have indicated—measures which, I trust, will meet with your approbation, not preventing others which, with more judgment, your superior authority may deign to prescribe.

God and liberty.

JOSÉ MARIA REDONDO.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF THE STATE, *Ures*.

URES, *March 30, 1857.*

A copy.

Owing to sickness of secretary,
G. V. SANDOVAL.

GUAYMAS, *April 2, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Prefecture of the district of El Altar.

ALTAR, March 28, 1857.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR : The letters which your excellency sent me through the medium of the extraordinary expresses that your excellency has ordered, and bearing date of the 22d and 23d instant, have been received; and they attest the energetic measures which your superior authority has adopted to defend us from the adventurers who are invading our Territory. Such are, the giving swift intelligence to the authorities of the State, the notifying of the arrival of the nefarious horde on the Mexican shores or boundaries, the providing for the simultaneous mustering and arming of all the citizens, and the putting them under march to await the orders of your excellency for resistance; likewise that which tends to facilitating the movements of the armed force towards this district; and, finally, that which prohibits the exportation of provisions to the United States, which orders shall be strictly complied with.

As it is very important to the State, and is also my duty, I have arranged to send to your excellency, by a swift courier, a copy of the communications received up to eleven o'clock last night. By them your excellency will perceive that the time has arrived in which, without a moment's delay, a respectable amount of forces should be in this district, in order to exterminate the band of robbers who are attempting to usurp our sacred rights.

The bearer of the communications numbered 1 and 2, is the brother of the warden, Velasco; and, for the purpose of reporting the condition of Sonoyta, as he informed me verbally, he himself has been sent. This prefecture immediately proceeded to examine him. From the examination it appears that there has been delivered to the warden, by the alleged General A. Crabb and Jesus Ainza, the rough draft of the communication numbered 1; that they did not lose sight of said warden for a moment, and while watching him enjoined him not to communicate anything; that said adventurers gave an order to shoot cattle belonging to the citizens Francisco Redondo and Jesus Estrella; that this order becoming known to the steward of the former, he, in order to prevent them from taking those in the valley which were very lean, and which, when killed, they would not like, for the reason mentioned, proposed to them that when they wanted cattle he would point out to them the best; that, accordingly, at the time of his departure, the steward had already shown them three; that it was whispered about in Sonoyta, by the rabble, that they did not anticipate any harm from the Pápagos, whom they are on good terms with—that is, the settlements about Sonoyta—in order that they might be opposed to us; that the letters which are sent from here are not even heard of, for the want of time—they keep them entirely; that the families and inhabitants of that place, though they wish to rise, cannot do so through fear; that extraordinary expresses

have already been sent to the Rio Colorado and to Calabazas ; and, finally, many other particulars which are of no importance.

As it may suit your excellency to have before you the original letter from Sonoyta, a copy of the translation of which is numbered 2, I do myself the honor to enclose it to your excellency for your superior knowledge.

I have also deemed it proper to supply your excellency with that which I sent by the regular mail yesterday ; so that your superior authority, being acquainted with the whole, may be pleased to adopt the most efficient measures.

Of the present and its respective enclosures, I hasten to give intelligence to the prefects of Hermosillo and of San Ignacio.

I conclude by recommending to your excellency not to lose sight of the want of forces, of munitions of war, of cash, and, more particularly, our want of your excellency in person.

God and liberty.

JOSE MARIA REDONDO.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SONORA, *Ures*.

URES, March 30, 1857.

A copy.

Owing to sickness of secretary,
G. V. SANDOVAL.

GUAYMAS, April 2, 1857.

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF SONORA.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

Wardenship of Sonoyta.

SONOYTA, March 28, 1857.

Agreeably to your late communication in regard to the alleged incitation of the State of Sonora by the Americans, I will state to you that I have thought it useless to announce their arrival in this town, owing to the difficulties and the great scarcity of horses ; but all those men having arrived with pacific intentions, and paying respect to individuals, to property, and to families, and the general of the whole emigration, Mr. Henry A. Crabb, having come before me and stated that he knows positively that hostile preparations are being made against him and his party, and that he protests formally before the State of Sonora against the offensive proceedings and the injuries they may cause him, and that for the calamities and horrors which war brings with it, he will not be responsible ; and, to spare the effusion of blood, I have not objected to addressing you, and to enclose a packet from that general to your prefecture.

The number of those men, I learn from the troops themselves, is one hundred and odd, armed with daggers, pistols, and rifles.

I also learn from them that this is only the advance guard of a larger party, who are behind; which I make known to you in order that you may act accordingly.

God and liberty.

RAFAEL VELASCO.

The PREFECT OF THE TOWN OF EL ALTAR.

ALTAR, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy from the original.

URES, *March 30, 1857.*

A copy.

Owing to sickness of secretary,
G. V. SANDOVAL,

GUAYMAS, *April 2, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

MEXICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

First court of Caborca.

CABORCA, *March 26, 1857.*

At this moment, which is at four o'clock in the afternoon, the coast spies have just arrived in this town, and report having descried at sea quite a large vessel coming from the Piedra Parada, along the coast, and supposed to be bound for the Rio Colorado.

At this moment the relief of the spies on the coast of Lobos is leaving, it being borne in mind that to-morrow, and perhaps to-day, others will leave to watch the coast of the Salina.

God and liberty.

JESUS RIVERA.

The PREFECT OF THE DISTRICT OF EL ALTAR.

ALTAR, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy of the original.

JOSÉ MARIA REDONDO.

URES, *March 30, 1857.*

A copy.

Owing to sickness of secretary,
G. V. SANDOVAL

GUAYMAS, *April 2, 1857.*

A copy.

MARIANO MONTERDE, *Secretary.*

PORT OF MAZATLAN, *April 10, 1857.*

Copies from the originals in this office under my charge.

FRANCISCO CARRERO, *Secretary.*

SONOYTA, *March 26, 1857.*

Conformably to the colonization law of Mexico, and in compliance with positive invitations from some of the most influential citizens of Sonora, I have entered the limits of your State, accompanied by one hundred followers, and in advance of nine hundred more, with the intention of finding most happy firesides with and among you. I have come with the intention of offending no one, and without public or private intrigue. On my arrival in this place I have not made any sinister demonstrations, but, on the contrary, only pacific proposals. It is very true that I am provided with arms and munitions, but you know that it is not common for Americans, or any other civilized people, to go unarmed, and especially when it is considered that we have to pass where the Apaches are continually committing depredations; and therefore, I learn with surprise that you are adopting measures of indignation, and are collecting a force to exterminate me and my companions.

I am well aware that you have given orders to poison the wells, and that you are ready to employ the vilest and most cowardly weapons. But take care, sir, that all we have to suffer does not fall upon your own head, and upon the heads of those who are associated with you. I did not suppose that you would degrade yourselves by such barbarous acts. I know, too, that you have not ceased to incite our friendly tribe, the Pápagos, by the most mischievous offers; but it is very creditable that, in my present condition, your pretensions should have been derided.

I have come to your country because I have a right to pursue the maxims of industry, and as soon as I entered I gave proof that I came expressly to be received with open arms; but now I understand I am to meet my death from an enemy who is wanting in humanity. As regards my present companions, and those who are yet to arrive, I protest against any evil proceeding.

Finally, you must come to some conclusion; but bear this in mind, if blood is to flow, with all its horrors, on your head be it, and not on mine. Yet you may rest assured, while pursuing your hostile preparations, that as regards myself, I shall go where I have long intended to go, and I am only waiting for my emigrants. I am the principal head, and I intend to act according to the dictates of natural law and self-preservation.

Until we meet in El Altar, I am your obedient servant,

HENRY A. CRABB.

Señor Don JOSÉ MARIA REDONDO,

Prefect of the district of El Altar.

This communication is given to the warden of Sonoyta, in order that, without failure and without delay, it may be delivered to the prefect of El Altar.

H. A. C.

ALTAR, *March 28, 1857.*

A copy of the translation from the original.

JOSÉ M. REDONDO.

LUIS NORIEGA, COMMANDING GENERAL OF SONORA, TO THE GARRISON OF GUAYMAS.

AROUSE SOLDIERS OF THE COUNTRY!

GUAYMAS, April 2, 1857.

One hundred bandits of the piratical invasion, at the head of which is Mr. Crabb, their leader, are already on our territory, committing hostilities in the district of El Altar, and nine hundred more are to appear at different points, with the preposterous pretension of seizing this port, and the principal settlements of the State. His excellency Governor Don Ignacio Pesquiera, appointed previously commander-in-chief of the forces which are to operate on the frontier, is already marching to obstruct the advances and depredations of that plundering rabble; and, resting on your arms, you should await the moment, which is not far off, to consecrate to your country your important services.

Soldiers, national guards, your self-denial in abandoning comfort, property, and family, and seeking death to save your country, is what constitutes the noble virtue of patriotism, and I joyfully perceive that you possess it. From distant towns, deferring your interests to those of the nation, and cheerfully submitting to every inconvenience, you have come to this port to co-operate in the defence of your independence and liberty against an enemy who is in a thousand respects contemptible. The slightest effort on your part will be sufficient to chastise them; and I shall witness with particular satisfaction your return to the bosoms of your families after you have performed the duties which society exacts of every good citizen, and with the noble pride that you have not permitted to remain on your native soil pirates who, without political profession, wish to usurp your dearest interests.

Such is the prayer of your fellow-citizen and friend,

LUIS NORIEGA.

Ignacio Pesquiera, Substitute Governor of the State and Commander in Chief of the forces on the frontier, to his fellow citizens.

FREE SONORIANS: TO ARMS ALL OF YOU!

The hour has arrived which a short time since was announced to you, in order that you might prepare yourselves for the bloody contest in which you are now about to enter.

You have just listened to the most explicit declaration of war which, in that arrogant letter, is made against us by the leader of the invaders. What reply does he merit? That we march to meet him.

Let us fly, then, to chastise, with all the fury which can scarcely be restrained in hearts full of hatred of oppression, the savage filibuster

who has dared, in an evil hour, to tread on the national territory, and to provoke—madman!—our anger.

No pity, no generous sentiments for that rabble!

Let them die the death of wild beasts, who, trampling under foot the law of nations, and despising the civil law and all social institutions, are bold enough to invoke as their only guide the natural law, and to ask as their only help the force of brutes!

Let our reconciliation be made sincere, Sonorians, by our common hatred of that accursed horde of pirates without country, without religion, without honor.

Let the only distinctive mark that protects our foreheads, other than the balls of the enemy, humiliation and insult, be the tri-colored ribbon, the sublime conception of the genius of Iguala. On it we will write those beautiful words, "LIBERTY OR DEATH," and henceforward we will have but one other thought: the powerful and invincible league of the two parties into which the State has lately been divided by civil war.

Very soon we shall all return covered with glory, after having assured forever the prosperity of Sonora, and recorded with indelible letters, in scorn of tyranny, this principle: "THE COMMUNITY THAT WISHES TO BE FREE WILL BE SO."

Meanwhile, fellow-citizens, open your hearts and give free vent to the enthusiasm which is swelling in them!

Long live Mexico! Death to the filibusters!

IGNACIO PESQUEIRA.

URES, *March 30, 1857.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR AND MARINE,

Bureau of Operations, April 22, 1857.

His excellency the President has been made acquainted with the official communications of your excellency, numbered 129 and 134, of the 10th of the present month, which I have received by extraordinary express, and in which you enclose copies of the despatches addressed to you by the commanding general of Sonora, in regard to the appearance in that State of a vanguard of filibusters to the number of one hundred men, under the command of the American, Henry A. Crabb, who are committing hostilities on the settlements in the district of El Altar, at the same time that a body of nine hundred adventurers is organized and known to be on its way to develop the plan of invasion which has been premeditated against Sonora.

His excellency is also informed of the measures adopted, as well by the authorities of said State as by your excellency, and that you are getting ready to march to the theatre of the events, in order personally to direct the operations, having sent forward a division under command of General Cadena, carrying artillery and munitions of war.

The supreme government sees with satisfaction the patriotism and zeal with which the said authorities and your excellency have stepped forward to the defence of the national territory, and that you have

overcome, with great presence of mind and decision, the difficulties which naturally presented themselves, owing, on the one hand, to the exhaustion in which Sonora has been left by the intestine convulsions which she has just experienced, and, on the other, by the scantiness of resources arising from that condition. It, therefore, does not doubt that the judicious measures which have been adopted, as well as the courage and enthusiasm of the Sonorians, will produce the brilliant results which are expected.

His excellency the President approves of your excellency's steps to aid Sonora efficiently, because they are in accordance with what the government had previously determined, and are the expression of its will, very explicitly stated to your excellency, in order that you might carry it into effect.

I seasonably communicated to your excellency the determination that a competent force should march to your assistance from Guadalajara; and that another, which was enlisting at this capital, should follow; and now, by extraordinary express, the order is renewed to the commanding general of Jalisco, that, without delay, there shall leave for Sonora a force consisting of the light battalion of carbineers, the three hundred recruits who are ready for the same destination, and the artillery and ammunition that were previously ordered.

The government being convinced of the necessity that this assistance should arrive as soon as possible, in order to be turned to due account, has sent to said commandant general a warrant for the amount of thirteen thousand dollars, in order that his march may not be delayed; and he is ordered, notwithstanding his having previously signified the difficulty of obtaining transport vessels at San Blas, to make new efforts to furnish them, to the end that the forces may embark at that port for Guaymas, and if this cannot be effected, they will proceed by land to Mazatlan, where they will embark.

In order that your excellency may rely on the resources which are indispensable for the subsistence of the troops, and for other necessary expenditures, I enclose you orders which are addressed to the collectors of maritime customs at Mazatlan, Guaymas, and La Paz, that the proceeds of their custom-houses shall be placed at the disposal of your excellency, and also that said officers may obtain means in anticipation of the duties, at the discount which is expressed in the authorization which is granted to them.

The supreme government has conferred on your excellency sufficient powers to enable you to act with entire freedom, and according as circumstances may require, well persuaded that your reputed prudence and discretion will point out to you the road which you should follow in behalf of the cherished interests that have been confided to your patriotism.

Relying on that, the government most confidently expects that your excellency will fulfill your important mission with the zeal and solicitude for which you have been so much distinguished in the public service; and for this reason it abstains from giving you new instructions, and from suggesting to you the steps which you are to

take, as they must be regulated exclusively by circumstances, that your excellency will know how to take advantage of.

The perfidious views of the filibusters who have dared to trample on our territory being known, the lying words in the letter of Crabb, that they have presented themselves as colonists, yet putting forth threats at the same time which reveal their true object, cannot avail him anything. Consequently, the proceedings of your excellency against this crowd of pirates should be as efficient as energetic, in order to punish their audacity and their crime.

God and liberty.

SOTO.

His Excellency Don J. M. YAÑEZ,
General-in-Chief of the Forces of the Western States.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 34.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, April 28, 1857.

SIR: My apprehensions that peaceable citizens of the United States, settled in Sonora, would suffer from the excitement caused by the Crabb invasion, are already being realized. Two of our citizens, Augustin Ainza and Rasey Biven, have already been arrested, and I have had to lay their cases before the government of Mexico.

I transmit herewith a copy of a note of this date which I have felt it my duty to address to this government, and which I hope will meet the approval of the department.

Expeditions of this lawless character against the peace of a friendly and neighboring power, are well calculated to affect injuriously our national character, and I should be much gratified to have the direct authority and sanction of my government to make good the sentiments I have expressed to Mexico in the accompanying despatch.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c., &c.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, April 28, 1857.

Since the date of the note of the undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States, on the 23d instant, to his excellency the minister of relations, on the subject of the imprisonment of Ainza and Biven, in the State of Sonora, the undersigned has learned by later advices that, after much annoyance and suffering, Mr. Biven has been discharged from arrest, in default of evidence to detain him.

This circumstance induces the undersigned again to urge upon his excellency the necessity there exists to insure that the peaceable citizens of the United States who are settled in Sonora, are not confounded with and made to suffer for the guilty invaders of the Mexican soil. In the excitement and exasperation of feeling which this invasion is well calculated to provoke, more than ordinary prudence and moderation are requisite to prevent injustice and protect the innocent.

While the undersigned deeply deplores that the peace of Mexico should be invaded by a band of men from the United States, and more particularly at a moment when he has been exerting his best powers to establish the relations between the two republics upon a footing of cordial friendship and the exchange of the offices of good neighborhood, he is most solicitous to guard the two governments against any misunderstanding on account of the persecution of citizens of the United States innocent of complicity in the Crabb invasion.

The undersigned deems it proper to say to your excellency, for the information of the supreme government, that he has fully advised his own government of the filibustering movement from California, and that he has no doubt that the United States will take measures to convince Mexico that it has not been wanting in its full duty in the premises.

The undersigned takes this occasion to renew to your excellency the assurances of his very distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His Excellency Sr. D. EZEQUIEL MONTES,
Minister of Relations.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 35.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, April 30, 1857.

SIR: A courier has, within a few hours, arrived from Mazatlan, with dates to the 21st instant, bringing to the government the intelligence of an engagement between the Mexican troops of Sonora, and the advance of the Crabb expeditionists. The action was sharp, but resulted in the complete overthrow of the invaders.

Crabb himself was wounded and taken prisoner, together with sixty out of his force of one hundred. When the courier departed, the prisoners were undergoing trial, and it is probable that Mr. Crabb himself has been shot, and I fear his fellow-prisoners have suffered the same fate.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c.

[Extract.]

Translation from the Trait d'Union, Mexico, April 30, 1857.

* * Yesterday morning, at eight o'clock, the courier, announced by telegraph despatch, arrived with dates from Mazatlan to 21st instant. We give the substance of the news he brings. Crabb, and his hundred and odd filibusters, have been completely routed at Caborca, a village situate on this side of the Presidio del Altar. The contest was severe. The invaders had possession of the village, and occupied its strong positions, and to dislodge them the Sonorians were compelled to set fire to two buildings from the roofs of which a vigorous defence was made.

The triumph has been complete, for, without reckoning the killed and wounded, more than sixty of the filibusters have been made prisoners, and among them Crabb himself, their chief, who was wounded in the action. Scarcely twenty-five were able to escape.

At the last date the trial of Crabb and his comrades were progressing, and at the moment we write they probably have been shot. As we supposed, it was Governor Pesqueira who commanded in chief. The Sonorians have to deplore heavy losses; their killed and wounded are numerous; among the former is mentioned Captain Rodriguez, second in command; his adjutant is numbered among the wounded. What now will say the apologists, even of Mr. Gandara, whose course of justification consisted in representing the present governor and the national guard of Sonora as having an understanding with the filibusters. This first victory appears to us to be decisive; the invaders, now without a leader and disorganized, probably will not press their attempt any further.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 37.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, May 7, 1857.

SIR: Information has been received in this capital from Guaymas, by way of Mazatlan, that the fifty-nine prisoners of the Crabb expedition, taken at Caborca, have been shot. A boy of the age of twelve years was the only one who was spared. The summary nature of the proceedings, and the great distance from the capital, rendered it impossible for me to make an effort to save them. Indeed, they were shot before it was known here that they were prisoners.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c.

[Extract.]

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 40.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, June 1, 1857.

SIR: I transmit to the department a copy of a note which I have felt it to be my duty to address to the minister of relations on the subject of the late butchery of Henry A. Crabb and his companions at Caborca, in the department of Sonora. The circumstances of the tragedy have, in my judgment, an extremely bad aspect for the authorities of Sonora, who, I hope and have reason to believe, have committed the atrocity on their own responsibility, and without the sanction of the supreme government.

Soon after the arrival of the bloody intelligence in this capital, the President was heard to express great regret at the occurrence, and to say that he had despatched orders to spare such prisoners as should be taken. But his orders were too late, for almost simultaneously with the news of the passage of the party of Crabb into Sonora came that of its capture and execution. I do not think it necessary to repeat the details of the bloody affair in this despatch, the case being stated as fully as my present means of information permits in the copy of my note to this government. In so grave a matter I have not ventured to anticipate the judgment of my own government as to the responsibilities which this deed will impose upon Mexico. It comes most inopportunistically to endanger the interruption of that course of friendly feeling and pacific policy which was growing up on the part of this government towards the United States.

I hope the desire of the Comonfort administration, which I believe to be sincere and strong, to strengthen its friendly relations with the United States, will prompt it to deal with this grave question with a fairness, justness, and manliness which is so foreign to its habits. I think there is little reason to doubt that Mr. Crabb was invited to Sonora, and that he was the victim of deception, treachery, and surprise.

The sequel of the history, I fear, will prove that the extermination of himself and of his party was designed to cover up the complicity and treason of some of the Mexican public men of Sonora. This is only surmise on my part, colored, however, by some dark hints that have come to me to that effect. It is not easy, upon a different hypothesis, to account for the conduct of Crabb. He was a man of sense and energy, and cannot be supposed to have gone with his eyes open into the snare that was set for him. He must have been betrayed.

I have made every effort to obtain authentic facts of the history of this affair, but without avail. We have no consular agents in that part of the republic. Mazatlan is the nearest point represented, and that, by a vice-consul named by myself, temporarily. I have heretofore recommended that the vacant consulships on that coast be filled.

I beg to urge again upon the department the importance to the protection of American interests of the occasional display of the American flag in the ports of Mexico and on both coasts. It is nearly or quite two years since one of our cruisers has been seen in Mexican waters. Their occasional presence is absolutely necessary to protect our citizens, especially our seamen, from the abuse of power by rapacious local officials. Nearly all the cases of complaints made by our people to this legation spring from this source, and such is the state of the country that the supreme government, with the best intentions, (for it is the cause of immense trouble to and endless reclamations against its treasury,) is not able to prevent it. An occasional visit by a naval commander, with instructions to inquire into personal American grievances, would produce a most happy effect, and save a great deal of loss and suffering. Their absence is attributed to weakness; and Mexican local officials, while having unbounded respect for the strong, are sure to prey upon the unprotected. This is a topic of constant communications to this legation from Americans in all parts of the country, and they complain bitterly and justly of their unprotected condition, especially in contrast to that of British and French subjects. * * * * *

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mexico, May 30, 1857.

The occurrence of the recent and tragical events in the state of Sonora, resulting in the summary military execution of seventy-five American citizens, imposes upon the undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, the grave and solemn duty of addressing this note to the supreme government of Mexico, through his excellency Señor Don Juan Antonio de la Fuente, minister of relations. This duty has been deferred by the undersigned in the hope of obtaining other and fuller information in relation to this tragedy than has been furnished by the official reports from the authorities of Sonora to the supreme government, and which have been published in the journals of this capital.

Disappointed in this, the undersigned, in the following statement of the facts, is obliged to rely solely upon those official reports. Desiring to do full and measured justice to the government of Mexico, and not in the least inclined to deepen the coloring of the crime against the laws of God and man, which the undersigned believes the civil and military officers of Sonora, who are responsible for this tragedy, are guilty of, the undersigned the less regrets that the grave complaint he is now called upon to make is based exclusively upon statements of facts of Mexican official origin. As calmly as possible, and is consistent with the painful topic and with that respect which

he has always striven to feel for and to manifest in his intercourse with the supreme government, the undersigned now proceeds to lay before his excellency the facts of this case, as drawn from the published official reports.

It appears that in the latter part of the year last past, and in the beginning of the present year, in the State of California, certain persons formed themselves gradually into a party for the purpose of emigrating thence, either into the territory known as the "Gadsden Purchase," of the United States, or into the State or department of Sonora, Mexico. That both of these points of destination were frequently mentioned by the public press of California, accompanied by intimations, more or less broad, as to the possible unlawful ulterior designs of the party in question. That the general management or leadership of this party was entrusted to Henry A. Crabb, esq., a well known and influential citizen of California, and allied by marriage with wealthy Mexican families, natives of Sonora, and possessing there large interests and influence. That the formation of this party was known and spoken of, and its probable movements and motives freely discussed by the press of California and of this country for a considerable period of time previous to its appearance on Mexican soil. That ample time was had by the Mexican government, in case of suspicion or doubt as to the real objects in view of this party, to prepare for and meet it whenever and wherever it should enter, if at all, in Mexican territory, and then and there, in the manly spirit of a civilized and honorable nation at peace with the government of the members of this party, examine, promptly, fairly, and legally, into the character and designs of the intruders, and acquit and free, or condemn and punish, accordingly as the accused might have been found innocent or guilty of the charges preferred. That in the month of March last, Mr. Crabb, with some one hundred of his companions, entered the state of Sonora. That he, with his followers, were at Sonorita on the 26th of that month, That on that day he addressed a communication to the prefect of Altar, in which he clearly states that he and his companions had come to Sonora in obedience to the positive invitations of the most influential citizens of that State, and for the purpose of settlement and residence therein, in conformity with the provisions of the colonization laws of the country. That there was no intention on the part of the immigrant party of committing any offence whatever, and that it was not connected in any way with intrigues, either public or private. That the party were armed, it is true, but only in the manner usual and necessary for self protection, when passing through a region of country constantly subject to the depredations of the Apache savages. That subsequently, Mr. Crabb and his companions proceeded to the town of Caborca, where, without parley, without inquiry as to their purposes, without opportunity for explanation, they were surrounded and assaulted by several hundred Mexican troops. That after a severe engagement, Mr. Crabb and his surviving companions surrendered and were taken prisoners. That almost immediately thereafter, these prisoners, some of them severely wounded, were, with the exception of a lad of tender age,

summarily and mercilessly put to death. That some days after this terrible tragedy, another party of sixteen Americans, travelling with a loaded wagon through the country, were, on the suspicion, as is alleged in excuse, of belonging in some way to the party of Mr. Crabb, and of having military stores, suddenly seized, and were, without contest, offence, open provocation, or subsequent trial, also summarily and mercilessly put to death; and finally, that the government of Mexico has thus far, and so far as the knowledge of the undersigned extends, neglected to institute an examination into these occurrences, so terrible in themselves, and fraught, it may be, with the most serious and untoward consequences.

The foregoing is an epitome of the history of this horrible affair, as some time foreshadowed by the public press, and as given by the authorities of Sonora to the supreme government; and it is with this state of the facts that the undersigned has now to deal, although he is prepared to read a more extenuating version of them when the history of the unfortunate expedition comes to be written, not by its own side, for alas, Sonora vengeance has spared not one to tell the tale, but by its friends in the United States.

From these facts of the case, the undersigned is forced to draw the following inferences:

First. That *prima facie*, Mr. Crabb and his companions were an emigrant party from the State of California, seeking homes in Sonora by the invitation of its influential citizens, and colonization and settlement in conformity with the Mexican laws of colonization, and entitled to the protection thereof.

Second. That the government of Mexico cannot plead surprise in the premises; on the contrary, as plainly appears, ample time and notice were had by the government in case of suspicion or doubt, to have promptly investigated the character of the suspected party in a dignified and magnanimous spirit, justly protecting or justly punishing according to the results of such examination; and this course of conduct was clearly the solemn duty of the Mexican government.

Third. That it does not appear otherwise than that Mr. Crabb and his followers acted simply and wholly in self-defence, finding themselves surrounded by armed foes instead of inviting friends, and making, in this unexpected condition of treachery, hostility, and surprise, only such resistance as the law of nature and the instincts of self-preservation dictate.

Fourth. That the surrender of Mr. Crabb and his surviving companions at Caborca, and the acceptance of such surrender, secured to them according to the laws of civilized nations the sacred right of a full, fair, and impartial trial by law, and that their execution without such trial was *legal murder*.

Fifth. That the subsequent slaughter of the party of sixteen was unmitigated and inexcusable murder.

The undersigned has read the cool official account of this slaughter by fusilade with those feelings of indignation and horror which will thrill through every manly bosom in the civilized world which its recital shall reach. Shooting unarmed prisoners without trial, and in

cold blood! And this a deed done in the nineteenth century, a deed done by a Christian people, taught by a Christian priesthood in ten thousand temples of worship devoted to the inculcation of the benignant precepts of the mild Saviour of mankind! The world had a right to hope that time and enlightened reason had banished from the war code of Christian nations of the Spanish tongue the principle and the practice of sacrificing in cold blood prisoners who had been spared by the fortune of war from the storm of battle, and that that great crime against humanity was henceforth only to be known to the wild savages of the forest and plains. Apart from its barbarity, it was to have been hoped that the horrid impolicy of the custom, and the retributive vengeance which, by Almighty fiat is certain to follow, had been illumined in letters of blood at Alamo and Goliad—blood which germinated a harvest of pregnant events in the history of Mexico.

Taking the worst aspect of this case for Crabb and his men, admitting that they were outlaws and pirates, the undersigned charges that they have not had meted to them that even-handed justice which the laws of nations accord to the worst class of criminals against the human family. The pirate who roams the ocean with the black emblem of death at his mast-head, who robs and murders the people of all nations indiscriminately, who respects no flag, no nationality, no sex or tender age, who sets at defiance the laws of God and man, who is outlawed by the common consent of mankind as *hostis humani generis*, even this monster of vice when overcome in battle by the cruizer of a civilized state, *is not put to death on the spot*. By every law, human and Divine, the commander who should so deal with him would be accounted a murderer. Even this monster is entitled to a trial, and it is the duty of the naval officer who captures him to send him to a constituted tribunal on shore having jurisdiction of his crime.

It is perfectly clear to the mind of the undersigned that whether Crabb and his men were prisoners of war, and as such entitled to their lives, or pirates, and as such entitled to a trial, in either event they have been unlawfully put to death.

The undersigned feels too sensibly the gravity of this affair to venture to indicate what responsibilities it will impose upon the government of Mexico in respect to his own. That question is of so much moment that only the government of the United States, to which it will be the duty of the undersigned to submit the whole painful transaction, is competent to decide it.

Meantime, while awaiting its instructions, the undersigned feels that he only acquits himself of an imperative obligation when, as the representative of a civilized nation, and as the countryman of these murdered men, he protests against the bloody deed as abhorrent to the sensibilities of an enlightened humanity, shocking to the principles of justice and right reason, and disgraceful to the age of advancement and progress in which we live.

In conclusion, the undersigned ventures to express the hope—not unfounded in fact, as he has reason to believe—that while the supreme

government is legally and nationally responsible for this tragedy, committed under color of its authority, yet that it was not perpetrated by direct orders emanating from itself, but was the unprompted deed of the Sonora authorities.

The undersigned hopes that he may have assurances to this end, for he would deeply regret to know that such an order could have been expedited by the supreme government for the slaughter of his countrymen at a moment when he was exerting his best energies in diplomatic efforts to strengthen the friendly relations between the two republics, and to give substantial evidences of the good wishes of the United States for the prosperity, honor, and integrity of the Mexican republic.

His excellency cannot fail to be aware that hard and bloody facts like those in Sonora, the subject of this note, must frustrate and emasculate the best diplomatic efforts to establish an era of good will, good offices, and mutual friendship and confidence between the people and the governments of our two republics.

The undersigned, regretting that his first note to the newly appointed minister of relations should be upon so grave and painful a subject, offers to his excellency the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His Excellency Sr. Don JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE,
Minister of Relations.

Mr. Appleton to Mr. Forsyth.

No. 23.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 17, 1857.

SIR: Since my communication to you of the 12th instant, your despatches, 36, 37, 39, and 40, have been received.

The assurances which you gave the minister of foreign affairs in your note of the 28th of April last, that this government desired to maintain the most friendly relations with Mexico, and would neither encourage nor countenance any hostile invasion of its Territory by citizens of the United States, have been fully sanctioned by the President. If the expedition of Mr. Crabb was one of this hostile character, it deserves the severest reprehension and punishment. But even then, the conduct of the Sonora authorities in shooting down, without trial, every man connected with it, and not sparing even those who had surrendered themselves prisoners of war, is justly characterized in your despatch as abhorrent to the sensibilities of an enlightened humanity, and disgraceful to the age in which we live. The department is not yet possessed of sufficient information on the subject to enable it to judge correctly either of the purposes of the expedition or the circumstances which attended its melancholy result; but your course in bringing the whole transaction to the early attention of the

Mexican government, was eminently just and proper, and is, accordingly, approved. It is stated in your communication that, some days after the merciless execution of Mr. Crabb and his companions, "another party of sixteen Americans, travelling with a loaded wagon through the country, were, on the suspicion, as is alleged in excuse, of belonging in some way to the party of Mr. Crabb, and of having military stores, suddenly seized, and were, without contest, offence, open provocation, or subsequent trial, also summarily and mercilessly put to death." According to newspaper intelligence, moreover, the Mexicans, not satisfied with the work of blood which they had accomplished on their own soil, invaded, on the night of the 18th of April, the soil of the United States, and there cruelly murdered four men, whom they took from their beds in the house of Mr. Dunbar, at Sonoyta, where they had been left sick a few days previous. If, upon examination, you find these statements to be correct, you will lose no time in demanding of the Mexican government the prompt and exemplary punishment of the persons by whom the outrages were committed. It is due to the friendly relations which exist between the United States and Mexico, not only that these lawless transactions should be at once disavowed by the supreme authorities, but that the most efficient measures should be adopted also, in order to bring their perpetrators to justice.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

JOHN APPLETON,
Acting Secretary.

[Extract.]

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 44.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, July 8, 1857.

SIR: * * * * I transmit copies of letters addressed to me in reply to inquiries I have made into the particulars of the Crabb massacre. I have not yet been able to obtain evidence upon which to venture official action of the murder of the Americans at Dunbar's house, on the American side of the frontier. The informant of Mr. Smith, vice-consul at Mazatlan, speaks as if the murder were an established fact, but he is wrong in regard to the names of the victims. I am quite sure that neither of the Ainzas has suffered. Agustin Ainza is still in prison at Hermosillo, and I have made an appeal to the government for his life, and protested against further bloodshed, demanding, at the same time, a fair and full trial for him.

The minister of relations has not yet replied to my note of the 30th May, a copy of which has been received at, and acknowledged from, Washington. * * * * *

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c.

MAZATLAN, June 18, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I had intended long since writing you a statement of all that I know relating to the expedition of Mr. Crabb to Sonora, and the complicity of the present authorities of that State in inviting him. I have written full particulars to the *Alta California*, San Francisco, at different times, and would like that you could get copies of that paper containing them. Until my family joined me last Saturday, and now until I can get them out of the country, I do not feel safe to disclose all that I do know, as I do not wish to be again imprisoned; and as our government cares so little for its citizens on this coast, I do not wish to incur further punishment, and bring more misery on my family, now prostrate with sickness, by telling even my own government the facts of the case. I am in hopes to get away from here, however, before my letters return from California, otherwise I fear I shall have more trouble. I was put in jail by the very men who knew I was acquainted with their secrets, and am satisfied that it was a mistake by the judge who liberated me, although he acted according to the evidence; and on this account my liberation is the more to be wondered at. The party now, and at that time, in power in Sonora knew no laws, human or Divine, and the sufferings they have made myself and family undergo are only excelled in brutality by the horrid butchery and mutilation of the bodies of those of the prisoners taken at Caborca. Were it known in Sonora what I have written to California, I do not believe that I should ever be able to reach the United States to testify to the same. I have written that I am ready and willing to swear that General Pesquiera, Manuel Yñigo, Fernando Yñigo, Fernando Cuvillas, and, I believe, also, José Aguilar, are guilty of inviting, enticing, and then betraying, the better to serve their own purposes, Mr. Crabb and his followers.

And now I will go back and state, as briefly as possible, all that I know that bears directly on the expedition of Mr. Crabb.

During the summer of 1855, a colonization company was organized, under the influence of Mr. Crabb, and one hundred or more persons, mostly Mexicans and former residents of Sonora, started in January or February, 1856—proceeded to Sonora by water, with his wife, brother, and sisters-in-law. The colony on arriving at Los Angeles, in the southern part of the State of California, found their wagons too heavy to proceed, and being disappointed in receiving \$1,500, which had been subscribed by some parties in Los Angeles, they were delayed until they became almost disorganized, although perhaps one-half of them reached Sonora during the summer of that year, but up to this time, I believe, have received but very little encouragement from the authorities who invited them, through Mr. Crabb. Mr. C. waited some time in Sonora to hear from the colony, but received no word from it while there. At the time of his arrival the country was in civil revolution. A strong party, headed by the merchants and Don Manuel Yñigo, were endeavoring to oust Governor Gandara from power. This party, who afterwards succeeded and made Ignacio Pesquiera provisional governor, at that time were not certain of suc-

cess, and requested Mr. Crabb's aid—still holding out inducements for his colony and agreeing to the payment of the money expended by him. They prejudiced Mr. Crabb against Gandara and his friends, and told him that by his aid they would make Sonora independent of Mexico. That Gandara was all that was bad. That the general government did not protect them, and might again force Gandara on them; that the people were ripe for annexation, and that his (C.'s) coming with Americans would at once settle the question, and they would be free. Pledges were made between them. The leading Pesquieristas of Sonora pledging their (Mexican) faith with Mr. C. for Sonora's independence. Mr. Crabb arrived in California, I believe, in September of last year, and commenced his plans, which were much interrupted by the excitement attending the presidential contest. Up to December last, however, (the time of my leaving for Sonora,) he had effected but little, and when I left I had not the most remote idea that he would come, although I knew he was anxious to do so. I should state, also, that before I left I know that he received many letters from Sonora urging his coming. On my arrival in Sonora I found the country in a great state of excitement regarding Gandara and his party, and it was an almost public expression on the part of the leading Pequieristas that "los Americanos" should come.

My intention in visiting Sonora, and my position as a man of family, and that family with me, made me think only of securing employment until I became fully acquainted with the events of the country, and could establish myself in business through my friends in San Francisco. I, therefore, maintained a strictly neutral position, and heard both sides who conferred with me regarding the interest of each—Pesquieristas and Gandaristas. I found the Gandaristas opposed, to a man, to the Americans, and that they were continually charging the Pesquieristas with filibustering, and calling Americans to their aid. The same charges, I believe, were being made by Governor Gandara in Mexico, and they pressed the matter with such vigor in Sonora that, finally, the Pesquierista party became alarmed for its safety and concluded at last to act double traitors, and oppose the coming of Mr. Crabb's party. In this, owing to the confidence reposed in them by Mr. Crabb, they too well succeeded, and we have to mourn the loss of some of the best men that lived, sacrificed to the bad faith and treachery of Mexican politicians. Why they should have been so anxious to kill them all, according to Pesquieras order, is only accounted for from the reasoning that "dead men tell no tales."

I always looked upon my own imprisonment in the light of being kept as a hostage; for, if Mr. Crabb's force had been greater and he discovering their treachery, might be inclined to punish them severely, he would have been deterred for fear of sacrificing a relation in their hands.

This I told the judges; and I also told them that I had not come as a "filibuster," but that their treatment had made me one, and I expected to live and die one. I am now strengthened in this desire by the memory of my countrymen, so shamefully betrayed and

murdered. My trial was conducted in every way disadvantageously to myself. I was not allowed an interpreter, and I am aware of several important errors in my answers to questions propounded to me about Mr. Crabb, which, I protested, were not written down as I had stated them, but which were not allowed to be corrected. With all this I escaped the fate of my countrymen, which, had I been in Sonora at the time of their death, would have been mine also, and my friends would never have known whether I had, or had not, met it deservedly. But, thank God, I have escaped the snares set for me in Sonora, and although still in Mexico, I do not think my country will allow the Mexican authorities to punish me for telling to the world the truth, and vindicating the memory of my kinsmen and countrymen.

Yours, most respectfully,

RASEY BIVEN.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
United States Minister, Mexico.

UNITED STATES VICE-CONSULATE,
Mazatlan, June 22, 1857.

SIR: I have this morning conversed with an American by name of Lowry, who came from the Rio Grande in company with Major Steen's command, and was himself confined in Hermosillo ten days, and from him I have been enabled to gather the first connected and reliable account of the reports referring to the capture and massacre of the party under the command of Mr. Crabb.

Mr. Lowry has conversed with the captive boy now detained in Hermosillo, who relates that, about two leagues from Caborco, Crabb's party were attacked by two hundred Mexican troops, and that they fought their way into Caborca, and took possession of a row of stores and warehouses on one side of the Plaza, whence they concluded to make an attempt to take the church, but the execution of which failed owing to the destruction of the match or fuse connected with the keg of powder intended to blow open the doors of the church.

During the assault Mr. Crabb was wounded in the arm and four men killed, and the party was forced to retreat. Consultation was then held proposing a surrender, supported by Mr. Crabb, to which most of the men objected, but their objections were overruled by Mr. Crabb, he supposing that his relationship with the commander of the Mexican forces would insure the lives of the party, and their case being at best a desperate one.

The terms of capitulation were then agreed upon, that the party should be taken to Altar and a fair and impartial trial granted them; on those conditions they laid down their arms, and were marched out and their hands tied behind them; after which Mr. Crabb was separated from the party for some time. On his return, the men were informed that they would be shot in the morning, (this being in the evening.) Mr. Crabb was, however, promised his life if he would disclose where he had buried his treasure (about \$10,000) he had with

him. Mr. Crabb refused placing any confidence in their promises. Among the party was another boy of the age of sixteen or seventeen, whose hands were unbound, and a wish expressed on the part of the commanding officer to save his life; he was, however, returned bound, and the other and younger boy led out from the party and sent off to Altar, leaving the party bound at Caborca, who were the next morning shot. Their mutilated bodies were left where they fell, and Mexicans were heard to boast that their hogs were fattening upon the bodies of "Los Yankees."

Mr. Lowry thinks the four men taken out of Mr. Dunbar's house and killed, were Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Ainza, his clerk, and two other Americans.

Upon the arrival of the wagon reported to contain the ammunition of Mr. Crabb, but which did not contain any ammunition, but was, in fact, a party of emigrants, the party were shown the head of Mr. Crabb, which had been preserved in vinegar, and informed that a similar fate awaited them.

The party headed by Mr. Hewes (twenty-six in number) were attacked by about three hundred Mexicans, but fought their way to the line, losing only four men, one of which was Hewes himself, whose heart and hands and ears were brought into Altar on a spear.

The party of seven Americans with a drove of cattle, reported to be murdered, were met by Mr. Crabb's party a few miles from the line and escaped; the Germans, with a drove of mules, Mr. Lowry also believes escaped.

Gabilondo, who is a Spaniard, returned into Hermosillo, painted like an Indian. Dr. McKay, an Irishman, was taken on the road, tied up to be shot, when released by a respectable Mexican.

Mr. Lowry conversed himself with many of the soldiers, who expressed themselves shocked at the atrocities they had been obliged to commit by order of their officers.

Many of the respectable inhabitants expressed their horror at the barbarities, and their fear of the vengeance of the United States.

A blacksmith, an American, living a few miles from Caborca, and who had been guilty of shoeing some mules for Mr. Crabb, although a peaceful resident many years in this country, was also murdered. The correct résumé of the murders committed appears to be as follows:

Sixty-nine of Crabb's party surrendered, sixty-eight of whom were shot.

Sixteen—the party with the wagon.

Four—Hewes' party.

Four at Sonorita, on United States soil.

One—blacksmith near Caborca.

Total—ninety-three.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES B. SMITH,
United States Vice-consul.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
United States Legation.

Mr. Cass to Mr. Floyd.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 25, 1857.

SIR: In relation to the subject referred to in the letter of W. F. Evans to you, dated the 8th instant, I have the honor to state that the department has not received from Mr. Forsyth any list of the names of those persons who were murdered in Sonora by the Mexican authorities. From the remoteness of the scene of that terrible event from the capital of the republic, the California papers would probably be in possession of the facts which transpired much earlier than Mr. Forsyth.

After the intelligence of the defeat of Crabb's party reached Mexico, it would have been impossible for any interposition from that quarter to save them. Their execution, as you are aware, was summary.

Mr. Forsyth addressed a very emphatic remonstrance to the government of Mexico against the inhumanity of the course pursued by the authorities of Altar in slaying men who, in the worst aspect of the case, were prisoners of war. And he has received instructions from this department to communicate to the government of Mexico the expectation of the United States that those persons who were engaged in the barbarity complained of will meet with that punishment which so heinous an offence deserves.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

P. S.—Herewith is returned the letter of Mr. Evans.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

[Extract.]

No. 46.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, July 27, 1857.

SIR:

* * * * *

I am still without a reply from the minister of relations to my note of May —, on the subject of the massacre at Caborca. The steps I have taken to obtain satisfactory evidence of the truth or falsity of the reported massacre of four Americans at Dunbar's house, on the American side of the line, have not yet resulted in the required information. I shall act immediately upon learning the truth.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c., &c.

H. Ex. Doc. 64—4

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 47.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, September 3, 1857.

SIR: I transmit, herewith, copies of my correspondence with the Mexican government upon several interesting topics.

The enclosures are as follows:

On the cases of the Messrs. Ainza:

1. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Montes, April 23, 1857.
2. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Tejada, June 25, 1857; with reply of the latter, July 9, 1857.
3. Same to same, July 30, 1857.
4. Mr. Forsyth to Minister of Relations, August 1, 1857.
5. Mr. Tejada to Mr. Forsyth, August 4, 1857.
6. Mr. Tejada to Mr. Forsyth, August 7, 1857.

Collision case of American schooner "J. J. Day:"

7. Mr. Forsyth to the Acting Minister of Foreign Relations, May 10, 1857.
8. Minister of Foreign Relations to Mr. Forsyth, June 10, 1857.

Case of negro sailors deserted from American steamer "Metacomet," at Vera Cruz:

9. Mr. Tejada to Mr. Forsyth, with copies of reports from minister of war and marine, and captain of the port of Vera Cruz, August 18, 1857.
10. Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Tejada, August 20, 1857.

The foregoing, with copies heretofore transmitted to the department, complete the correspondence in these cases up to date.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c. &c.

No. 1.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, April 23, 1857.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States, has the honor to inform his excellency the minister of relations that he has received information of the imprisonment of Augustin Ainza and Rasey Biven, two American citizens, at Hermosillo, in the State of Sonora. The former was arrested at his residence so far back as the 5th of July, 1856, and confined in the common prison with the worst class of prisoners. After much suffering, he was released, upon his giving bonds not to leave the city or State, upon the certificate of the physicians of the city that his life was endangered by the confinement. Ever since that period he has been awaiting his trial, urging that it might take place, in order that he might relieve his securities and return to his business in California,

which was suffering on account of his absence. In his memorial to this legation, he says: "No one seems inclined to try my cause. All the judges have refused to take cognizance of the case. Not any testimony has yet been given against me, and no prospect of any," &c. At last, after waiting for eight months, Mr. Ainsa, in order to relieve his securities, again delivered himself up to prison, where, according to his account, he is "likely to remain a prisoner for life." The undersigned is not advised of the cause or nature of the imprisonment of Mr. Biven. He, however, earnestly invokes the speedy action of the supreme government to investigate their cases, and especially to see that these citizens are not prejudiced, in a fair and early trial, by the excitement which doubtless prevails in Sonora in reference to a rumored and lawless expedition from California. While the United States will give no countenance to any such expedition violative of the treaty of amity and peace between the two republics, as well as the duties which the members of it owe to the character of their own government, its representative in Mexico will feel obliged, with redoubled vigilance, to watch over the rights of American citizens innocent of complicity in any such expedition, and who are liable to suffer from the prejudice excited against their countrymen alleged to be engaged in it.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to assure his excellency of his most distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His Excellency Señor DON EZEQUIEL MONTES,
Minister of Relations.

No. 2.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, June 25, 1857.

The friends of Augustin Ainsa, an American citizen, now a prisoner of the Mexican government, in Sonora, have invoked the interposition of the undersigned, minister of the United States, in his behalf with the supreme government. The undersigned had the honor, in a note to his excellency the minister of relations, of the date of April 23d last, to call his attention to the case of Mr. Ainsa, and also to that of Mr. Rasey Biven, who has since been released from prison. While it is far from the purpose of the undersigned to interpose the power of his government to screen those who have been guilty of overt acts of violation of the sovereignty of the Mexican republic, and proven guilty after a fair and open trial, he feels that it is altogether appropriate to the occasion to present to the clement consideration of the Mexican government, as a question of justice as well as of policy, whether sufficient blood has not already been shed, and sufficient punishment already meted, to atone for the unfortunate expedition of Henry A. Crabb into the state of Sonora. If the supreme government should agree with the undersigned in this suggestion, he ventures to hope that its clemency may be extended to Augustin Ainsa, even should he be found guilty upon a judicial investigation of his case.

It is proper to add, that this unfortunate man protests his innocence in the most positive manner.

The undersigned, &c., &c., &c.,

JOHN FORSYTH.

His Excellency Sr. D. SEBASTIAN LERDO DE TEJADA,
Minister of Relations.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico*, July 9, 1857.

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations, has the honor to state, in reply to the note of Mr. John Forsyth, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, of the 25th ultimo, respecting his excellency's mediation in behalf of Mr. Ainza, that said note has not been replied to before on account of waiting for the detailed reports from the State of Sonora, which have not yet been received, and that the course of the supreme government can only be determined after those reports shall be obtained.

The undersigned reiterates to his excellency on this occasion the assurances of his very distinguished consideration.

S. LERDO DE TEJADA.

His Excellency Mr. JOHN FORSYTH,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America.*

No. 3.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, July 30, 1857.

The undersigned, minister of the United States, &c., has the honor to acquaint his excellency the minister of relations with the fact that he has received information that Mr. Jesus Ainza, a citizen of the United States, was seized at Sonoyta, within the territory of the United States, and, in consequence of such arrest, is now a prisoner of state at Guaymas.

The undersigned learns that the friends and relatives of Mr. Jesus Ainza entertain serious fears for his safety, apprehending that his life may be sacrificed to prevent him from contradicting, when at liberty, certain statements affecting political parties in Sonora, which he made under duress of restraint and fears for his personal safety.

The undersigned hastens to make known this information to his excellency in order that timely inquiries may be made, and preventives applied to so flagrant a wrong as the bodily punishment of an American citizen, seized for that purpose on the soil of the United States.

If it be a truth, within the knowledge of the supreme government, that Mr. Ainza was arrested upon United States territory, the undersigned demands that he be immediately released, and restored in

safety, at the proper cost of the Mexican government, to the spot upon which he was unlawfully seized.

The undersigned begs respectfully to inquire of his excellency whether there is in the possession of the supreme government evidence to confirm or to refute the report current in the public press of the massacre, by the Mexican forces in pursuit of the remnant of the Crabb expedition, of four American citizens at the house of a Mr. Dunbar, situated on the United States side of the frontier line, between that country and Mexico.

The undersigned takes this occasion to assure his excellency of his very high consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His Excellency Sr. D. SEBASTIAN LERDO DE TEJADA.

No. 4.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Mexico, August 1, 1857.

The minister of the United States presents his compliments to his excellency the minister of relations, and requests that he will do him the favor to transmit the accompanying letter, under the government frank and protection, to Mr. Jesus Ainza, a prisoner at Guaymas.

The minister of the United States asks this favor as the only probable means of communicating with Mr. Ainza.

No. 5.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO, *August 4, 1857.*

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations, has the honor to state, in reply to the note of Mr. John Forsyth, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, dated the 30th ultimo, in relation to the arrest of Mr. Jesus Ainza, a citizen of those States, that a copy of said note has been sent to the Department of War, in order that it may preferrently be pleased to call for the corresponding reports on the matters referred to in that note.

The undersigned on this occasion reiterates to his excellency the assurances of his very distinguished consideration.

S. LERDO DE TEJADA.

His Excellency Mr. JOHN FORSYTH,

Envoy Extraordinary of the United States of America.

No. 6.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO, *August 7, 1857.*

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations, in connexion with the note which, on the 4th instant, he addressed to his excellency Mr.

John Forsyth, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, in reply to one from his excellency of the 30th ultimo, in relation to Mr. Jesus Ainza, has the honor to make known to him that, without obstacle to the transmission of the reports which have been called for in the case of that individual, the appropriate authorities have this day been notified, through the Department of War, that if it shall appear that said Ainza was apprehended on the territory of the United States, as soon as this circumstance is proved, he shall be restored to the place where he was apprehended, and delivered to the nearest North American authorities.

On making this known to his excellency, the undersigned reiterates his very distinguished consideration.

S. LERDO DE TEJADA.

His Excellency Mr. JOHN FORSYTH,
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
 of the United States of America.*

Mr. Cass to Mr. Forsyth.

[Extract.]

No. 29.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 14, 1857.

SIR:

* * * * *

The department is in hopes of receiving from you before long more particular and reliable statements than you have yet been able to furnish in regard to the massacre of American citizens at Caborca and Dunbar's house. It is hoped especially that you will have obtained exact lists of those who fell at those places. Much painful anxiety is expressed to the department by families having friends in that region, whose names have appeared in the public papers among the victims of those outrages, and until the official list is published their suspense is scarcely less agonizing than a cruel certainty of bereavement.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

JOHN FORSYTH, Esq., &c., &c.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

[Extract.]

No. 51.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, September 26, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copies of affidavits and letters which have been received at this legation, in reply to inquiries

I set on foot upon the subject of the massacre of the four Americans at Dunbar's house, on the Sonora frontier. I think they leave no doubt either as to the fact of the massacre, or that its scene was American soil. In so grave a matter, I desire to ask for the particular instructions of the government. The condition of our countrymen on the Pacific coast of this country is such as to imperatively demand some example which shall strike home to the minds of the officials and inhabitants of that region the conviction that there is a power, though distant, yet certain, willing and able to protect American citizens from plunder, imprisonment, and death. If insults like that to the consular flag at Mazatlan, and atrocities like those at Dunbar's house, are to go unatoned for or unpunished, then, as I have had occasion to write to the minister of relations, "the residence of an American minister in this capital becomes a farce and a scandal."

I implore the government, for the honor of the American name, and for the sake of an outraged humanity, which cries for justice in American accents from so many dungeons on the Pacific coast, not to let pass these two ripe occasions to dissipate the dishonoring and fatal belief which has strong hold in all that region, that the United States lack either the will or the power to protect her children and their flag abroad.

The vice consul at Mazatlan, Mr. Smith, asks me a question in regard to the lad Evans, who was the sole survivor of the Caborca butchery, and who, at my instance, has been reclaimed from a menial position in the house of his captor, which I am unable to answer, and touching which I ask your instructions.

* * * * *

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c.

A.

No. 42.]

UNITED STATES VICE CONSULATE,
Mazatlan, September 14, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that Charles Evans, the only survivor of the expedition under Mr. Crabb, arrived here on the 11th instant; his deposition is herewith enclosed; also a letter brought by him from *Gabilondo*, and one from J. A. Robinson; a sealed package from John W. Park, of Hermosillo; and a letter from Mr. Edward E. Dunbar, dated Guaymas, August 27, by which it appears that Mr. Robinson's information regarding the position of Mr. Dunbar's house and store was *very* incorrect.

The boy Charles was surrendered to Mr. Eligir Lofler, of Hermosillo, upon the receipt of my note to him of the 6th August, which note he presented to Gabilondo.

My opinion, derived from the well known lawless and merciless conduct of the dominant powers of Sonora, is, that the declarations of Mr.

Jesus Ainza were governed entirely by fears for his personal safety, and that he is surrounded by persons whom he believes to be his friends, who are greatly interested in preventing Mr. Ainza from ever testifying before an American tribunal. Should he ever again be placed upon United States soil, from which he was unlawfully forced, his evidence might be regarded with more consideration.

I beg to inquire if it would be proper for me to draw upon the Department of State for the expenses incurred here on account of Charles E. Evans.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
CHARLES B. SMITH.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
U. S. Minister, Mexico.

B.

UNITED STATES VICE CONSULATE,
Mazatlan, August 6, 1857.

SIR: I have this day received a despatch from the United States minister at Mexico, directing me to inquire the whereabouts and condition of the boy who was spared from the general massacre at Caborca.

I learn that the boy was brought to Hermosillo by the general commanding at Caborca, (Gabilondo,) and has since been domiciled at his house. Is he treated as a menial? Is he a boy of ordinary intelligence? Please communicate his name and age, and former residence in California. Does he desire to return to his country? Any information you may be enabled to give of the boy, or of the affairs concerning Americans lately transpiring in Sonora, will be thankfully received at this consulate.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
CHARLES B. SMITH,
U. S. Vice Consul.

ELIGIR LOFLER, Esq., *Hermosillo.*

C.

GUAYMAS, *August 31, 1857.*

SIR: The bearer of this is Charles Evans, the young man who was in charge of Señor Gabilondo, at Hermosillo. I understand that, according to your orders, he was given up to Mr. Eligir Lofler, and afterwards sent to my charge at this port, where he has been for several days stopping at my house, awaiting a chance to go to your port. As the "Ypala" leaves to-morrow, arrangements have been made by Don Juan A. Robinson with the captain of her for Charles's passage. The whole time that Charles has been here with me he

has proved to be a good young man; he has my best wishes, hoping to hear of his safe arrival at your port.

Your most obedient servant,

J. M. VINCENT.

CHARLES B. SMITH,
United States Vice Consul.

D.

GUAYMAS, *August 31, 1857.*

SIR: In compliance with your request contained in your note of the 6th instant, I have obtained a passage for the lad Charles Evans, the survivor of the Crabb party, on the Mexican brig Ypala, and have given the captain a draft on you for \$35, which was the lowest price for which I could obtain his passage down. This letter will be handed you by said Charles Evans. Replying to your favor of 14th instant, I would observe that Don Jesus Ainza has declared himself, before the courts of this state, a Mexican citizen; and, moreover, that he never had, and never would, become an American citizen; therefore, any solicitude in his favor as an American will be labor lost. Mr. Thomas Robinson will reply to Mr. Webber, regarding the interrogatories asked for in favor of Ainza.

I remain, sir, your most obedient servant,

JUAN A. ROBINSON.

CHARLES B. SMITH, Esq.,
Mazatlan.

E.

[Translation.]

"H. Gabilondo," (paper mark.)

HERMOSILLO, *August 19, 1857.*

MY DEAR SIR: Mr. Eligio Lofler has presented himself to me to-day with a letter from you making inquiries as to the whereabouts of the youth, Charles Evans, whom I liberated at Caborca. He intimated to me your wish that the youth should be sent to the port where you are, and I have delivered him up with much pleasure. I desire that you will send him on to his family, and that you will cause also to reach the hands of Charles's father what I enclose.

Without anything further at present, I repeat, sir, that I am your most obedient servant,

H. GABILONDO.
[A flourish.]

DON CARLOS B. SMITH,
Consul of the United States, Mazatlan.

F.

GUAYMAS, August 27, 1857.

SIR: Your letter of the 5th instant, from Mazatlan, requesting information respecting the massacre of four Americans at my house, near Sonoyta, in the Gadsden Purchase, reached me a few days since, in Hermosillo.

In reply, I have to say that Major E. Steen, commanding United States forces at Buchanan, G. S., has received orders from headquarters to despatch an officer, with men, to the scene of action, to investigate where the line runs, and everything appertaining to the affair. I have also given Major Steen my written evidence.

For your satisfaction, and for the use of our minister in Mexico, I will state what I know about the matter.

At this time I had trading posts at Fort Yuma, the house near Sonoyta, and Calabazas, all in the Gadsden Purchase. When Mr. Crabb and party arrived at Fort Yuma I was engaged in the general superintendence of the business, and more especially at that period attending to the transportation of goods from Rio Colorado to Calabazas, going back and forth myself.

I had one brief interview with Mr. Crabb at Rio Colorado. This gentleman was an entire stranger to me; I had never seen him before, and nothing definite was made known to me respecting his plans. From what was said, however, and the appearance of the party, I did not regard them as *filibusteros*, in the general acceptance of the term. There appeared to have been some negotiations between them and people of influence in Sonora, in relation to their entry into that state. Having a pretty good knowledge of the frontier country and the state of affairs among the people of Sonora, I felt absolutely certain that the anticipations of this party would not be realized, and the opinion was freely expressed to my friends and acquaintances along the frontier.

From principle I am *anti-filibustero*, and having no confidence in the success of this party, no sympathy or connexion with it grew out of my coming in contact with the same.

Application was made to me at the river Colorado by Mr. Crabb, through one of his officers, for a credit of six hundred dollars worth of provisions. This was positively and decidedly declined.

I left the river Colorado with a mule train of goods for Calabazas, *via* Sonoyta, about a week before Mr. Crabb and party.

On arriving at Sonoyta I found Jesus Ainza, a young man (one of the Sonora Ainza family) brought up in the mercantile house of my partner, Mr. Belknap, in San Francisco, who had come to act as clerk in Sonoyta. I had written to Mr. Belknap to send me a clerk, and, in accordance with this request, Mr. Belknap wrote to Ainza, then in Hermosillo, to go to Sonoyta and arrange with me if he was at liberty. He accordingly came.

My advice to Ainza was, not to join his brother-in-law, Crabb, under any circumstances. To this he agreed, at least until I returned from

Calabazas. Leaving Ainza in charge, and with directions to give credit to *no one*, I proceeded on to Calabazas with the train. After remaining at that point some days to regulate business, I returned to Sonoyta with the mule train, arriving at that point on or about the 10th of April, 1857. Here I learned that Crabb and party had passed to Caborca about the 25th March. To the surprise of all, no direct communication had been received from that region since that period. The entire frontier appeared to be securely closed against all egress. There were vague rumors, however, of disaster to the Americans. The only channel through which these rumors came was the Pápago Indians.

My original intention had been to go on to the Rio Colorado with the train for goods to Calabazas, but the mules being somewhat poor, and my abiding conviction that disaster would come to the Americans and all business at Sonoyta be broken up, at once caused me to decide to pack the goods in the Sonoyta store to Calabazas, and close the same. Accordingly, all, with the exception of some articles that could not be conveniently packed, were despatched for Calabazas on the 14th April. I then made arrangements to leave for the Rio Colorado. It was understood between Jesus Ainza and myself that, on my return in a few weeks, if the rumors of disaster proved true, he should accompany me to Calabazas.

As I was about to leave, rumors more distinct reached me by two Pápagos, who appeared to have come direct from Caborca. They stated that the Americans had all been killed, and that troops might be expected at Sonoyta to kill the four sick Americans left by Crabb on his passage, and who were then occupying the house of Don Jesus Estrella, in the pueblo. I was somewhat more ready to give credit to these accounts than others, and, from a feeling of common humanity, suggested that these four sick men be removed to my house, about two miles distant, and on the American side of the line, supposing they would be safe there. This was done immediately. Their names were Long, Bunker, Harrison, and Parker. The two former were somewhat feeble from fever, and the latter (Parker) was conveyed on a litter, being entirely unable to walk from the effects of a gun-shot wound in the knee. Harrison was in much the same condition from rheumatism.

After the removal of these men to my house, I waited three days for certain information from Caborca, but nothing new arriving, provisions growing short, and my business being pressing, I put out for the Colorado on the evening of Friday, April 17.

This is the last personal knowledge I have of matters in Sonoyta. But I am informed by Captain A. J. Ankrim and Mr. Staler, residents of the Rio Colorado, who were at Sonoyta, *en route* for Sonora, at this time, that a few hours after I left there arrived a body of Mexican soldiers, with an officer, who stated that he came with authority from the State of Sonora to search for and take all filibusteros there. In the night he proceeded to my house, seized and bound all found therein, viz: the four Americans and Jesus Ainza. About 5 o'clock the next morning Messrs. Ankrim and Staler state that they heard the

firing, at which time the Americans were shot. Jesus Ainza was taken prisoner to Altar.

John Kilbride, an American blacksmith, who also resides at Sonoyta, stated that he passed my house about 8 o'clock the next morning, on his way down from the Mina del Axo, whither he had been with a load of provisions. He states that he found the four dead bodies of the Americans some distance apart, down a steep bank, west of the house. From the traces [rastros, Tr.] on the bank, the feeble men appeared to have slid and rolled down the bank and all scattered to different points, and thus shot. Thus their bodies lay with gun-shot wounds. Some Pápago Indians, sent by the said Kilbride, soon came up and buried the bodies near the well.

The said Kilbride also states that my store, which had a strong mezquite door, and was locked, had been broken open, and everything of value taken therefrom; books, papers, &c., scattered in confusion; and, so far as I am able to ascertain, the books and accounts relating to the business in Sonoyta are lost.

Since the occurrence of this affair, it is stated in Sonora that my house is within the Mexican line. I never heard anything of this before, while selling thousands of dollars' worth of goods, which, according to Mexican laws, are contraband.

In the first place, a small house was built at this location, on the edge of the desert, isolated, and about two miles from the *pueblo*, (town,) by a Mexican, to vend *mescal** and tobacco, contraband articles in Sonora. This house was built in July, 1856, one year after the line was run, and with a knowledge of the line as run by Lieutenant Michler. He (the Mexican) was never disturbed. I was in Sonoyta at the time the line was run, and satisfied myself beforehand that the house was in American territory. I purchased the same, and subsequently built a tienda in the rear, a large *corral* in the rear of that, and another house in the rear of all, and in this last were sleeping the four sick men when taken.

In front of the house, about ten yards, is a heap of stones, thrown up by Mr. Michler, and pointed out to me by one of his officers as one of the marks of the line as it passes from what we call the "Pecachos," near by to the "Narises," some forty miles distant to the southeast.

I have, since the occurrence of this horrible business, learned, what I would not at first believe, but which now, in its truth, grates harshly on my feelings, viz: that I would have been executed in the same manner as the four Americans, had I been caught there by the troops.

This grates the more harshly from the fact that I had nothing to do with the party. I saw them enter the country with pain, and no one wished that they had staid at home more heartily than myself, for I saw plainly that the result would be a breaking up of my business at the frontier, where I had had friendly and successful relations for more than two years. Another matter in connexion with this is not calculated to soothe or mollify one's feelings under such circumstances. I refer to the proverbial tardiness and lukewarmness of our government

* A sort of ardent spirits.—Ta.

in protecting its citizens and their interests throughout the frontier, and all this region. Innocent as President Buchanan himself of all hand in this Crabb affair, and just as worthy of protection as the aforesaid President of the United States, it appears that I have had a narrow escape from being shot down like some unclean beast, my body thrown into a shallow hole on the desert, to be dug up by *coyotes* for them to feast upon, and my scattered bones left to whiten in the sun. And what notice would my government have taken of all this? The response which my own mind gives, and that of all Americans here, is *none!* Some story that I was a *filibustero* would have been trumped up, and there it would have ended.

It is a *burning disgrace, and a shame*, that the United States government, with its boasted power and overflowing treasury, cannot keep a naval force in these waters to back its declaration delivered in thunder tones, "*Our citizens and their interests shall be protected; not a hair of their heads shall be unjustly harmed.*"

This would prevent vexatious acts and persecutions on the part of foreign nations bordering on the Pacific, and greatly *lessen the causes* of ill feeling against us that grow up among the same.

I have not been molested on my passage through this state from Calabazas, where I still have business. But this is doubtless owing to the fact now generally understood that I am no *filibustero*. *But I am, out and out, American.*

Respectfully yours,

EDWARD E. DUNBAR.

CHARLES B. SMITH,
United States Vice Consul, Mazatlan.

G.

GUAYMAS, *September 1, 1857.*

RESPECTED SIR: The matters and things contained in Mr. John J. Rodgers' statement to you are true, as myself and many others were witnesses to all that has been said by him therein. The only interest I have in the matter is that patriotic feeling that should induce every American heart towards the assistance of a persecuted countryman. Mr. R. has requested me to also act as an attorney, and assist him in laying his case before you, which I have willingly done, to the best of my ability, with as strict regard to the truth as lay in my power. Since its composition, however, I have learned another very important fact, if well founded as a truth. I called on Mr. Dunbar, (the gentleman at whose house the four Americans were said to have been killed,) to ascertain in relation to the following point, but I did not incorporate it among the others, as he could not verify it, viz:

"Are not all the letters and papers of Mr. Crabb, now possessed by the Mexican government, a part and parcel of his property, stolen or seized illegally by the entrance, on the territory of the United States, (a friendly nation, without their consent,) of an armed body of men,

under Mexican authority, and were not the letters so stolen and hypothecated, for which Rodgers was arrested and confined in prison ; and are not said papers a part and parcel, virtually the property of the United States, when so left on United States territory for her protection, and hence illegally arrested on papers illegally obtained ?”

If I would not be asking too much, I would respectfully solicit an answer to Mr. R.’s statement, protest, &c., as appears addressed to you—addressed to me at San Francisco, California, *via* the American consul at Mazatlan—as also a reply to Mr. John J. Rodgers, at Guaymas, so as to insure us that you have received the enclosed communication ; otherwise we will be compelled to send on another copy to you for fear of accident in miscarriage.

We would solicit your views of the ultimate success, and at what period it would be likely to be attended to, and its final settlement. In case you should require a certified statement, you might mention it to Mr. Rodgers or to Don Joaquin Asteaseran, district judge, before whom Mr. Rodgers was tried, for such transcript record of his court, or, if it is sent to Mazatlan, to the circuit judge, such transcript might thus be obtained. But in relation to this matter, it would be deemed highly important to have Mr. Rodgers’ letters copied off in English, if you desired them, because they have wrongly interpreted them here in Spanish. Mr. Rodgers is a gentlemen highly respected by all who know him.

Americans here, as well as in California, I see, express themselves highly pleased with your determined course in relation to Mr. Henry A. Crabb and party, among whom were some of California’s brightest ornaments ; men of intelligence, refinement, and character, have been seized and *put to death without the form of trial* by the summary vengeance of a subordinate military authority of Mexico. The boy, or young man, taken with Crabb, says that they *gave up under a most solemn treaty and guarantee* by the Mexican commander who afterwards had them so brutally murdered by his treachery, becoming more a barbaric tribe. The treaty, he says, was this : “That Crabb and company were to surrender, and give up their fire-arms, and that then they should be treated as prisoners of war ; that they *should have a fair legal trial*, and time to procure witnesses and make a defence ; that the wounded and sick should be strictly attended to, by kind usage and medical treatment.” All this, he said, the party thought very fair ; but the next day showed that they honorably kept this treaty, like they kept all others with Americans. This boy, or rather young man, and a Mr. McGraw, who saw them killed, would be good witnesses. Mr. Dunbar says that his house is on American territory, and the Mexican officer must have known it before he killed the four men at his house, as follows : Parker, Long, Harrison, and Bunker—all Americans. These men were killed with the same haste and without delay to find out accurately, from proper authority, the American line. They were mysteriously quick in their movements, as delay might have found Crabb a colonizer or mining party by right, and the four men, on their own soil.

Another point that might interest you: there is now confined in prison

here, a certain Dr. McKay, an American, but there being no consul here, he is not permitted to see any one. He is arrested on the same charge as Mr. Rodgers, (viz: writing letters,) and it is time he should have some protection from his government, in demanding his trial and release immediately. But a still more serious point of law is the seizing of Mr. Crabb's brother-in-law at the time of the killing of the four persons at Mr. Dunbar's house, (and they would have killed Dunbar, also, if he had been at home,) his name is Jesus Ainza. Now, even admitting Ainza to be a Mexican citizen, they have no right to seize him by an armed body of men unlawfully entering on American territory; and, besides, it is optional with the Mexicans whether they give them up or not. Now, there is *not any extradition law* between Mexico and the United States. What right, then, has an armed body of Mexicans, by authority of Mexico, to arrest a person in Georgia, New York, or in the Gadsden Purchase? If by treaty of extradition, she might have a right *only to demand*; this is another overt act, outside of all others. They also killed a Dr. Evans, who has no connexion with Crabb. They also killed, according to their own story, every American, but one, found peaceably settled in the northern portion of this State, so as to get rid of them.

This Ainza has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Peroté for committing no illegal act on Mexican territory, from the mere fact of suspicion. If he was notified as a witness, and told to tell as fair evidence, and protected in such right, he might be of service to you; but he is, I suppose, for fear of his life, to tell the right story, as they allow no evidence against themselves as legal. Gabilondo, Herone, and Hernandez should be made to answer *whether they stipulated with Crabb and party* as prisoners of war, which they did not stick up to. I know nothing of these men so brutally murdered, (only by acquaintance in California with a few of them.) The boy says that the men were not buried, but left naked on the ground, as they were shot, except the hands being cut off, (for the finger-rings,) and then stuck on the bayonets. He was shown several plugs of gold *taken out of the teeth* of the unfortunate *filibusteros*, (as so termed;) one Mexican had as much as \$1 50 out of one man's head. The stench and effluvia were so great he could not go near them. The Mexicans pulled off their shirts and clothing before shooting the men, in order to keep their clothes for their use; thus they were robbed of all their money, and several of the men's apparel are now worn by the Mexican officers.

Mr. Forsyth, I wrote you some time ago in regard to the amendment in the "consulate law of 1856," so far as relates to this port, and to have a full consul established here, so far as laid in your influence. It is much wanted here, and as there is none at Lower California or Mazatlan (save a vice) this side of Acapulco, 1,400 miles. There should be a decent salary allowed, as is allowed at other ports, (say \$3,500 per annum, as everything here is very high,) as the dignity of government might be supported in her representative. The fact of government appointing merchants or others doing business in a port has done much injury. In the first place, they know nothing of

law; and in the next place, if they did, their business is such that they fear to injure it by interfering in behalf of their unpopular countrymen. I have written on to Mr. Gwin, of California, for this position, and to whom I have a right of reference. And I would like, if consistent, your influence for me, and for the recommendation in the law above stated. I was with you in the Mexican war, in Captain Calhoun's company, and know you very well. I am a nephew of Colonel J. G. Park, of democratic notoriety in Georgia, and a relation of Major Williams.

I send you enclosed a short schedule of Mexican doings at La Paz. Their operations at this port are not half-way told.

Be so good to direct your answer to me at San Francisco, (care of Dr. O. A. Hillman.)

Respectfully,

JOHN W. PARK.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH.

P. S.—Messrs. Alsua, (of the firm of Alsua, Dorn & Co., Mazatlan,) of this place, Mr. J. Robinson, and A. Coindreau, all gentlemen doing business here, saw the letters for which Rodgers was arrested, and will vouch for his statement that they were harmless, and that he should not be arrested. Mr. Rodgers was frequently told by the Mexicans that it would be useless to bring his case before the minister, as the Americans never do anything for their countrymen. But he flatters himself this effort will not be without avail. I forgot to mention that there has not been an American man-of-war since 1848 at this port.

H.

Personally appeared before me, Charles B. Smith, United States vice consul for the port of Mazatlan, Charles Edward Evans, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed and set forth as follows:

That he was born in the city of New Orleans, on the 25th day of December, 1842, and that he removed to the State of California in the year 1849, in company with his mother and step-father, where deponent constantly resided until the year 1857.

And deponent further declares that, on the 19th day of January, 1857, he being then at the town of Sonora, Tuolumne county, State of California, he on that day joined an expedition at that time organizing in the town of Sonora, and known as an expedition bound to Sonora, Mexico, for the purpose of mining, and in company with about thirty men of said company; this deponent left Sonora on the following day *en route* for San Francisco, where they arrived on the 21st day of the same month, and on the same day embarked on board the steamer Sea Bird, for San Pedro, accompanied by the Sonora members of the expedition, and thirty or forty more members of the same expedition that had joined at San Francisco.

Deponent further declares that, on the 24th day of January, they

arrived at San Pedro, and after disembarking from the steamer, took up their line of march for El Monte, Los Angeles county, where they arrived on the following day, and after remaining there one week for the purpose of purchasing horses, mules, wagons, and provisions, took up their route for Fort Yuma, on the Colorado river, where they arrived on the 27th day of February, stopping one week on the way at Warner's ranch, the company then consisting of ninety men and two wagons, containing provisions; part of the men being mounted and part on foot; Mr. Crabb acting in command of the expedition, assisted by Mr. McCoun, Mr. N. B. Wood, and Mr. David S. McDowell.

And deponent further declares that the expedition remained at Fort Yuma one week, during which time one Doctor Evans left the expedition and proceeded on to Sonora alone; and that after recruiting the animals at Fort Yuma, the expedition started for Sonora about the 4th of March, and arrived at the puebla of Sonoyta on the 25th day of the same month, where it remained for two days, when Mr. Crabb, accompanied by sixty-eight (68) men, among whom was deponent, left Sonoyta for Caborca on the 27th day of March, leaving twenty (20) men and one wagon behind at Cabeza Prieta, under command of Mr. McKinney. And deponent further declares, that on the morning of the 1st of April, they being then distant about half a mile from the town of Caborca, and when quietly pursuing their way on the road, between wheat fields, and being in no kind of military array, and riding in careless order, without scouts in advance, and they not being, or ever having been, under any military discipline or organization, nor anticipating fighting or expecting any resistance to their entrance into the Mexican territory, they were suddenly fired upon, at 8 a. m., by about 150 men, lying in ambush; and deponent declares that the Americans continued their way towards Caborca, being constantly fired upon by the men in ambush, and that the Americans returned the fire whenever an enemy could be seen.

Deponent says, that about 400 yards from the houses comprising the town, the lane they had up to that time been marching through, opened into a clear, open space, which had to be crossed by the Americans before they could gain the shelter of the houses, and that while the Americans were crossing that space they were fired upon in every direction by Mexican soldiers from behind houses, and fences, and any other shelter that could conceal an enemy; and deponent declares that the Americans immediately proceeded to a row of adobe houses, fighting on the principal street, and that the Mexican troops proceeded to take possession of the church opposite, and that upon gaining the shelter of the houses they were protected from the fire of their opponents, but found that two more had been killed belonging to their party, and three mortally wounded, who died the same night; deponent says the names of the killed were Clark Small, [or Smole,] and a man nicknamed Shorty; and the names of the mortally wounded were John George, Clark, a lawyer of Livingston, El Monte, and William Cheney.

Deponent further declares, that fifteen others, Americans, were

wounded before reaching the shelter of the houses, and which they did reach at 9 a. m. on the 1st of April, after about one hour's hard fighting, and where they remained in comparative security, although constantly exposed to shots from the church, until 2 o'clock p. m., when an attack was planned and made upon the church, composed of fifteen persons, and commanded by Mr. Crabb, who took with them a keg of powder for the purpose of blowing open the doors of the church; deponent declares that Mr. Crabb and the fifteen men aforesaid sallied from the house and crossed the street to the church, exposed to a very heavy fire from all quarters, and after five men had been killed of the said fifteen and seven more wounded, among which was Mr. Crabb, wounded in the arm, above the elbow, they were satisfied that they could not attain their object to blow open the door of the church, and returned to their quarters, where they remained closely besieged until the coming of the 6th day of April, when the roof of their quarters was set on fire; deponent further declares that a keg of gunpowder was then set off in the room over which the fire was burning, to extinguish the flames, but which did not succeed, and overtures were then made to the besiegers by the Americans to surrender, to which the Mexican authorities in command replied that the Americans should be treated as prisoners of war.

Deponent further declares that, upon this information being received, Mr. Crabb sent a Mr. Hines with a flag of truce to arrange definitely the terms of capitulation. The Mexican commander would not permit the said Hines to return to the American party, but Hines called out to the Americans that the Mexican commander promised to send the Americans to Altar, and give them a fair and impartial trial, on condition that they would march out of the house one by one, leaving their arms behind them.

Deponent further declares that Mr. Crabb requested his brother-in-law, Mr. Cortlezon, to inquire again of the Mexican commander how he would treat the Americans upon surrendering themselves; to which the said commander, Gabilondo, replied that they all should have a fair trial, and Mr. Crabb then directed Mr. Cortlezon to inquire how the Americans wounded would be provided for; to which the said Gabilondo replied that he had a good physician, and that they would all be well cared for; and deponent declares that he heard Gabilondo say that he kept his word, for he did have a good physician for them.

Deponent says that Mr. Cortlezon, while holding the before mentioned conversation with the said Gabilondo, was standing in the door of the American quarters, and Gabilondo was posted in the belfry of the church; and some of the Americans were still unwilling to surrender; but, upon being told by Mr. Crabb that he believed they might rely upon the promises of the Mexicans, they finally consented to lay down their arms, and marched over to the convent one by one, deponent among their number, and had their hands crossed together and tied, and were then marched to the barracks, where they arrived at 11 p. m.

Deponent says that shortly afterwards Mr. Crabb was separated

from the rest of the Americans, and had an interview with the Mexican commanding officer, and that when he returned the sentries would not allow him to hold any conversation with the rest of the Americans, and that about one hour after midnight a sergeant came in and read the sentence in Spanish, that all were to be shot at sunrise the next morning, which sentence was interpreted to the Americans by the said Mr. Cortlezon, and the names of all the men present were written down by Colonel N. B. Wood, and the list was handed to Gabilondo.

And deponent further declares that about 2 a. m. he was awoke out of his sleep, and his hands were unbound, and he was taken out from his companions, and at daylight he started for Altar in company with the aforesaid Gabilondo, and arrived at Altar at 8 a. m. the same day, where he remained, by the directions of Gabilondo, and two days afterwards returned to Caborca, in company of Gabilondo, and there saw the bodies of the murdered Americans scattered over the burying ground; and deponent says that the bodies were stripped bare of every particle of clothing, and lay exposed without burial; and deponent saw that the remains of the bodies had been very much mutilated by coyotes and hogs; and deponent furthermore declares that he heard some Mexicans say that their hogs would fatten on the carcasses of the Yankees; and that the stink arising from the dead bodies was nauseating in town; and that the presence of the hogs was unbearable from their contact with carrion; and that he was shown the gold taken from the teeth of some of the Americans, and that he was also taken to see the head of Mr. Crabb, which was lifted from an earthen jar filled with vinegar, and the head of Mr. Crabb, by the hair, and shown to deponent, and deponent declares that he knew it to be the head of Mr. Crabb; and that he heard Gabilondo despatch an officer and sixty or seventy men to Sonoyta.

Deponent furthermore declares that he remained in Caborca eleven days after his return from Altar, during which time he saw Mr. Jesus Ainsa brought a prisoner into Caborca by the said officer and men, as above stated having been ordered to Sonoyta; and he then left with Gabilondo for Ures, where he arrived on the 29th day of April, and saw Gabilondo deliver over to Pesqueira the papers he had obtained from Mr. Crabb; and the deponent, on the 2d day of May, left Ures for Hermosillo, with Gabilondo, where he arrived on the following day; and deponent declares that he remained in the house of Gabilondo, treated as a menial, at one time knocked down and severely beaten by the said Gabilondo, until the 19th day of August, when he was shown by Mr. E. Lofler a letter from the United States vice-consul at Mazatlan, demanding his release, and was informed by Mr. Lofler that he had already applied to Gabilondo for the release of deponent.

And deponent declares that, on the following day, he was released by Gabilondo, and took passage in the stage to Guaymas, where he was received in the house of Capt. J. M. Vincent, and there remained until a vessel sailed bound for Mazatlan, when he took passage, and arrived at Mazatlan on the 11th day of September, 1857.

And deponent further declares that, when in Hermosillo, he was summoned before a Mexican tribunal to give evidence in relation to

the expedition of Mr. Crabb, and his evidence was translated by a ~~man~~ in whom deponent has no confidence as a translator.

And further deponent saith not.

CHARLES EDWARD EVANS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, United States vice-consul for the port of Mazatlan, this 14th day of September, A. D. 1857.

[L. s.] Witness my hand and the seal of this consulate.

CHARLES B. SMITH,
United States Vice-Consul.

Mr. W. F. Evans to Mr. Cass.

GLASGOW, KENTUCKY, *August 28, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Not long since I received a letter from the Secretary of War, enclosing one from you to that gentleman in response to a letter written by me to the Secretary of War, in relation to the massacre of General Crabb and his party in Sonora, Mexico, believing then, as I do now, that my brother, Dr. Henry L. Evans, was one of the unfortunate sufferers in that cruel affair. From the tone of your letter, and from my appreciation of your character, formed from your long and public life, I am induced to trouble you with another letter, which trouble you will, I know, look over, when you will, as I know you can, appreciate my feelings in relation to the murder of my brother, who, from all the accounts I have been able to gather from newspapers, never raised arms against the Mexican government.

Permit me to call your attention to the enclosed slips which I have preserved.

I now am, and ever have been, opposed to what is called filibustering; and had my brother and the entire command of Crabb been shot whilst engaged in actual strife or warfare against the authorities of Mexico, I could only lament their misfortune, but not desire any revenge. But this was not the case. From no quarter can I learn that my brother was engaged in the battle. From the slips I send you you will see he had, before leaving the "protection" of our own flag, left Crabb and his men; and Crabb and his men, when shot, *were really prisoners of war*. Then the four Americans shot at Fort Yuma by Mexicans upon *American soil* does seem to me to present a case calling upon our government to avenge the death of her own citizens. But I have confidence that government will do what is right in the premises.

My object in now addressing you is to ask of you the favor, should any official information reach your office touching this affair which it would not be improper to let me know, that you advise me of it.

One of the slips I send you would seem to indicate that my brother was not shot; but the slip containing the letter from Mr. Cardwell

seems emphatic that he was shot. Indeed, I feel certain, if he were alive we would hear from him.

Yours, most respectfully,

W. F. EVANS.

General CASS,
Secretary of State.

ANOTHER MASSACRE.

As a matter of general interest to many of our readers, we give place to the following letter from California, written by George N. Cardwell, esq., to his brother, Captain J. W. Cardwell, of this place :

SAN FRANCISCO, *June 3, 1857.*

DEAR BROTHER: By the steamer of the 20th ultimo I mailed to you, as usual, the papers in which was an account of the massacre of General H. A. Crabb and party, in Sonora, Mexico. They were looked upon there as filibusters; but that they were not you will be satisfied when you read what the papers contain sent out by the steamer that will bear this.

My object in alluding to this matter is, what I conceive to be a duty, to apprise distant relations, whom you know, of the fate of Colonel William H. McCoun, whose mother yet lives, I believe, in or near Salvisa, in your county; and also that of Dr. Henry L. Evans, formerly of Tompkinsville, Kentucky, whom you will recollect. These two gentlemen I knew well, and have had considerable intercourse with them lately. Both of them were very desirous that I should join their party—the same in which they have lost their lives.

I wish you, on receipt of this, to address a line to poor McCoun's family, as well as that of Henry Evans, who, I think, have moved to a little place called Franklin, in Allen county. There, I think, is where his mother died some few months since; and, if I mistake not, his wife still lives there. But you can write to either of his brothers—William, James, or Shelby—all of whom, I think, live in that region.

Before the expedition left here Henry told me that he had some \$1,800 that he intended to invest in stock in Mexico, if he was not pleased with Sonora. After he arrived there I received two letters from him, one from Cook's Wells, near Fort Yuma, and the other from Fort Yuma, in which he informed me that he would leave the expedition at that place and proceed on his own hook, (to use his expression,) requesting me to forward all his letters to him; and, at the same time, I wrote him at some length.

From the first information we received of the massacre he had gone before as he intended, was taken, however, as a prisoner, and, by the last advices, was shot at Altar, in Sonora, and there can be no doubt but that he, also, has fallen a victim to these worse than savages.

In regard to what McCoun left in the way of property, &c., I have not been able yet to find out anything, but will endeavor so to do.

There never was so cold-blooded a murder in the world as this has been, and none other than Mexicans could have perpetrated such a deed of blood.

If I can be of any service to the friends, I am to be found at this place.

G. N. GARDWELL.

[From the New York Tribune.]

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

By the arrival of the George Law, on Friday, we have California dates to the 20th of May.

* * * * *

From Sonora we have full details of the extermination of Colonel Crabb and his band of filibusters. We have heretofore printed the leading facts. The entire party, consisting of eighty-four men, including Henry A. Crabb, their commander, were massacred. On the 1st of April the party entered the town of Caborca, situated on the Gulf of California, and immediately encountered the Mexicans, under Rodriguez, who, with several of his soldiers, lost their lives. The filibusters next took possession of several houses on the plaza, but shortly thereafter were hemmed in by the foe. In this position a sort of guerilla warfare was sustained for eight days, with a loss to the Americans of twenty-five, and to the Mexicans of two hundred men. A summons from the latter to the Americans to surrender was at first refused, but at the expiration of the above mentioned period Crabb and his fifty-eight surviving soldiers marched out of the building in which they had intrenched themselves, and which had been fired, and unconditionally laid down their arms. On the following days the entire party, with the exception of their general, was taken out in squads and shot. A more humiliating and ignominious death awaited General Crabb. He was allowed to write a letter to his wife, and hold an interview with one of his original company, who had left him before they crossed into Mexican territory, after which he was led out to execution. He was tied to a post in front of the building he had occupied, his face to the post and his back to his executioners. A hundred balls were then fired into his body, after which he was decapitated, and his head exhibited in a conspicuous place for the multitude to gaze upon. Among the killed are a number of the most distinguished political personages who have ever resided in California. Some days after the massacre, a detachment of twenty-five Mexicans from San Juan crossed the line and seized four of Crabb's party, who were sick in bed in the house of an American, and meted out to them the same punishment as had been visited upon their countrymen. Twenty recruits from Tuneson, who were on their way to Crabb at Caborca, were attacked by two hundred Mexicans near that place. They, however, after severe fighting, reached the American line. The excitement throughout California consequent on the reception of this news has been intense, and a very general feeling of revenge seems to actuate the minds of the masses.

* * * * *

[From our own correspondent to the New York Tribune.]

SACRAMENTO, *May* 19, 1857.

The important news of the day is the total annihilation at Caborca, in Sonora, of Henry A. Crabb's party of filibusters. Mr. Crabb left here about January last, ostensibly for the purpose of mining in the Gadsden purchase, and settling there; but really intending to conquer Sonora, and in process of time add it to the slave States. He was the author of the "Whig Secret Circular" of 1853, recommending the calling of a convention to frame a new constitution, the division of the State, &c.; was State senator from San Joaquin in 1853-'54, and ever an active politician and an ultra pro-slaveryist. He was a man of influence, of respectable character and talents, and had he been engaged in a better cause deserved a better fate. There was nothing negative about him; he was positive in everything, and so positive on this slavery extension question that he sacrificed his life on the altar of his principles.

He left here, as before said, in January, with the following in his command:

H. A. Crabb, San Joaquin,
R. N. Wood, Contra Costa,
W. H. McCoun, Contra Costa,
John D. Oxley, Tuolumne,
D. S. McDowell, Tuolumne,
Henry L. Watts, Tuolumne,
Benj. E. Gillion, Tuolumne,
Geo. E. Hoyt, Tuolumne,
Wm. Wilson, Tuolumne,
Thos. Coates, Tuolumne,
Dr. T. J. Oxley, Tuolumne,
Chas. E. Parker, Tuolumne,
James McGraw, Tuolumne,
T. R. Taylor, Tuolumne,
John Edmonson, Tuolumne,
Dr. Evans, Tuolumne,
Chas. A. Lewis, Tuolumne,
Wm. Anderson, Tuolumne,
J. M. McFaul, Tuolumne,
James W. Woods, Tuolumne,
Sam. Kemmel, Tuolumne,
W. N. Miller, Tuolumne,
J. G. Garrison, Tuolumne,
Wm. Randolph, Tuolumne,
Wm. A. Allen, Tuolumne,
Thos. Craig, Tuolumne,
A. W. Allen, Tuolumne,
Ed. Chaplin, Tuolumne,

S. Bunker, Tuolumne,
B. Quarles, Tuolumne,
H. W. Van Doren, Tuolumne,
Robt. M. Holladay, Solano,
Thos. M. Maupin, Solano,
R. C. Hendrick, Solano,
Wm. Stevenson, Solano,
Hugh Seaton, Solano,
M. Porter, Contra Costa,
F. Perkins, Contra Costa,
Edwin Tucker, Contra Costa,
Geo. Gill, Contra Costa,
Geo. T. King, Marin,
John Lamarue, Marin,
F. Hohenhausen, unknown,
A. Hine, unknown,
Robert Button, unknown,
Edward Kaufman, unknown,
R. W. Madison, unknown,
F. O. Wilcox, unknown,
W. M. Mardis, unknown,
J. W. Evans, San Francisco,
J. A. Cortelyou, San Francisco,
F. B. Wilder, San Francisco,
Richard Perry, San Francisco,
Chas. W. Tozer, Yreka,
Robt. C. Wood, Yreka.

Mr. Crabb and his friends gave out that he was invited by Pesqueira, the lately deposed governor of Sonora, to assist him in warring against

the central government and re-establishing himself as governor, or ruler of Sonora, under whatever name; in fact, they exhibit documents to this effect. His men believe the invitation to be real, and, perhaps, it was; but it was no warrant for Americans to invade a province of a government with whom we are at peace. The party arrived at the Colorado early in March, and there, before passing from beneath the protection of the stars and stripes into a foreign country, and with a hostile intent, Dr. Evans, as he related the story himself at Sonoyta to Mr. Dunbar, an American trader, took Mr. Crabb aside and, pointing to the flag of his country floating over Fort Yuma, said; "General Crabb, before I leave the protection of that flag, I wish to know where I am going, and what I am going to do;" to which the general replied, "If you don't know by this time, I cannot enlighten you any more." "This," said the doctor, "is too vague; I must have something more clear and explicit, general, or I must leave you." "If you leave, doctor," replied General Crabb, "you had better do so now, for if you leave after crossing the Colorado, you will be considered a deserter, and looked after accordingly."

That was enough. The doctor, like a sensible man, left, and is alive to tell the tale, while not one who crossed into Sonora with Crabb, save a boy, has been spared. Crabb, with ninety-two men, pushed forward, and in April reached Caborca, a village in the vicinity of Altar, Sonora. While about to enter the town, Captain Rodriguez, the commandant, went out to meet them, to ask them what they wanted, perhaps, and was shot dead, without a word of correspondence having passed between them. The Sonorians became excited, fought, retreated, and rallied, the battle lasting for eight days within the town, the contestants on each side being behind adobe walls. Crabb and his men were at last driven from their shelter by a burning arrow, which fired the thatch above their heads, and rushed into the streets bearing a white flag before them. They were put under arrest and shot in squads next day. But the Mexican account of this affair must have reached you by way of Acapulco, even while I write. That account agrees pretty nearly with that brought us by way of San Diego.

CRABB'S PARTY ANNIHILATED.

The attack on Caborca confirmed.—Eight days' fighting.—Surrender of Crabb and fifty-eight men.—Execution of the whole of them.—The last hours of Crabb.—Atrocities committed by the Mexicans.—Only one of Crabb's party spared.—Boasting of the Mexicans.—The effect of Crabb's defeat.

A gentleman who arrived at San Diego from Fort Yuma, on the 6th of May, furnishes the *Herald* of that place with the following particulars of the sad fate of the Crabb expedition. It will be seen that the main features of the account of the movements of the expedition-

ists in Sonora, furnished by our correspondent at Fort Yuma, have been confirmed:

The expedition into Sonora, under the command of H. A. Crabb, has had a most disastrous end. Late in March, Crabb's party left Sonoyta, and marched to Caborca, a small Mexican town near Point Lobos, on the Gulf of California. The first intention was to have proceeded to Altar, but news of its partial fortification and susceptibility of a strong defence caused the diversion on Caborca. On the morning of the 1st of April the party of Americans entered the suburbs of the town. They were met by a body of Mexican troops, commanded by Rodriguez. It is said Rodriguez advanced to speak to Crabb, when the Americans opened fire and killed the Mexican commander and several others. The Mexicans immediately retreated, some to the mountains, but the majority to the church, which had been placed in a state of defence, and had at the time Crabb entered the town a number of beeves roasting whole in front of it to feed the Mexican troops.

It appears that here occurred Crabb's first and fatal mistake. Instead of at once charging and taking the church, which would have given him the town, he occupied several houses on the corner of the plaza, in front of the church.

The Mexicans at first deserted most of the town, but gradually being emboldened, returned and gradually hemmed the Americans in. Fighting continued eight days, with a loss to the Americans of twenty-five killed. The Mexican loss is reported by themselves to have been twenty-five, but is supposed to have been much greater—as high as two hundred. On the eighth day an attempt was made by two of Crabb's men to blow up the church by placing a keg of powder under the portico and firing it. The devoted men who attempted this were both killed, and Crabb is said to have been wounded in superintending it. It is said an offer was made by Crabb to retire if the Mexicans would allow it. He had refused to retire when the offer was made him, after the fighting had continued two days, and now the Mexicans, confident of his weakness and their triumph, refused. The Americans were gradually but surely caught in a snare, from which they saw no escape.

By breaking through the wall of the adjoining houses the Mexicans forced Crabb and his men into the corner buildings, which they repeatedly set on fire, but which the Americans as often extinguished. At last a Papago Indian shot into the roof of the main building, occupied by the unhappy filibusters, a lighted arrow. The flames caught the roof, and in a few moments the fire was dropping in great flakes upon the heads of the doomed men within. Worn out with constant fighting, exhausted with anxiety, famished by probably days of starvation and thirst, and without ammunition, Henry A. Crabb and fifty-eight men marched out of the burning house, with a white flag before them, laid down their arms, and surrendered. It is supposed unconditionally. This was in the night, or towards morning. They were immediately tied, their hands behind them, taken to a corral near the alcalde's office, where they were kept until morning,

when they were taken out in squads of five and ten each, and shot. In the first executions it was found that the calmness of the Americans discomposed the executioners, and they shot too high or too low, in many cases only wounding their victims. The backs of the fated men were then turned to the troops, and they succeeded in aiming with better effect.

McCoun, (may he rest in peace,) owing to his great stature, was saved this torture; a ball struck him full in the breast at the first fire, and he fell dead. Crabb alone was reserved for a solitary death. He was taken to the alcalde's office, questioned, allowed to write a letter to his wife, and to have an interview with a Dr. Evans, a prisoner in the hands of the Mexicans, who had been in confinement some weeks on suspicion. The hour for his execution having arrived, he was led out, his hands stretched above his head and tied to a post in front of the building he had occupied, *his face to the post*, and his back to his executioners. At the command "fire," at least a hundred balls were fixed into his body, and all that was mortal of Henry A. Crabb hung dead, swinging by his tied hands. A Mexican stepped forward, and with a large knife severed his head from the body, the warm blood spirting half way across the street. The head was placed on a table in front or in the office of the Juez, exposed to the jeers of the populace. It was then placed in a jar of mescal for preservation. Is there not something peculiarly terrible in such a fate for a man who has once controlled almost the destiny of a great State like California?

Two of the Ainzas, (brothers-in-law of Crabb,) are said to be killed, and also Rasey and Biven. My informant (an intelligent man and eye-witness of these horrors) says Crabb died as a gentleman should, as calmly and quietly as if he were going to a pleasant home.

Four men, sick, had been left at Sonoyta by Crabb. They occupied the house owned by E. E. Dunbar, esq., *on the American side of the line*. On the 18th of April, at night, a party of twenty-five Mexicans came up from San Juan, went to Dunbar's house, took these poor sick men out of bed, tied them, and at dawn of day carried them to the foot of the hill, *shot them like dogs, on American soil*, and left them to rot. A party of Papago Indians, more merciful, buried them, and four solitary mounds now appeal, lone witnesses of a beastly crime, to the American government for revenge. Will such an appeal go unheard?

Mr. Dunbar just escaped massacre, having left Sonoyta on the afternoon previous. The Mexicans were furious at his escape, although he had nothing to do with the party except to offer shelter, on American soil, to four sick men, in his own house.

A party of about thirty recruits, under Captain Grant Orrey, started from Tueson to join Crabb at Caborca. When within fifteen miles of the latter place they were attacked by about two hundred Mexicans. Captain Orrey retreated, fighting, and regained the American line, with a loss of only four killed. The Mexican loss was about forty. Captain Orrey deserves great credit for his skill. At every watering place the Mexicans attempted to check him and subdue him by thirst, but he routed them on every occasion. The last eight miles was a continued running fight, and his fourth man lost

was killed just at the line. Another party of the same strength, which left Tubac, has not yet been heard of. It is believed that if Captain Orrey had been with Crabb a different result might have been anticipated. All was bad management, want of experience, and a clear rushing upon a deadly fate. Crabb entered Caborca with eighty-four men. All these were killed except the youngest, said to have been spared by the Mexican commander, Garcia. The name of the survivor is unknown, but he is said to be a boy of sixteen or seventeen. The Mexicans at Caborca were about five hundred strong.

Major Bob Wood and Major Tozer are safe. They were with Captain Orrey's party. Colonel R. N. Wood, late Fillmore elector, is among the dead.

The influence of this affair upon Americans is very bad. Our prestige is entirely destroyed; the Mexicans are loud in their boasts; our dreaded invincibility is gone, and nothing but a great victory will restore it. Even the Indians now say we are of no account, and they will kill small parties when they meet them. Heretofore, Americans have had much greater security than any other people.

It remains to be seen how this horrible news will be received in California; whether the thirsty sands of Sonora and of the Gadsden Purchase have drank the life-blood of men whom California has been proud to honor with the judicial ermine and the robes of the senator in vain, or whether she will give an earnest demonstration that indeed—

“The blood of the martyrs is the
Seed of the church.”

Mr. Appleton to Mr. Evans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 4, 1857.

SIR: Your letter of the 28th ultimo, has been received. The department was in hopes of receiving before this time, from our minister in Mexico, more detailed statements respecting the massacre of Mr. Crabb, and the persons who were, or were supposed to be, connected with his party. But, owing probably to the remoteness of the scene of that outrage from the city of Mexico, and the difficulty of intercommunication, no precise information has yet been received.

Under instructions from this department, Mr. Forsyth has presented this subject to the government of Mexico; and when any new intelligence concerning it shall have been received, your request to be made acquainted with it shall be complied with.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN APPLETON,
Assistant Secretary.

WM. F. EVANS, Esq., *Glasgow, Kentucky.*

[Extract.]

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Cass.

No. 54.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
City of Mexico, October, 1857.*

SIR: * * * * *

My efforts to comply with the instructions of the department to obtain a list of the names of our countrymen massacred at Caborca, have not yet proved successful. The government is not in possession of the list. I have sent to the Pacific coast for it. The American boy, Evans, the sole survivor, who was released and sent down to the consulate at Mazatlan, at my instance, has returned to California. * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, &c., &c., &c.

*Mr. Cass to Mr. Evans.*DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 20, 1857.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 28th August last, and to the reply of this department of the 4th ultimo, I have now to communicate to you the additional items of information respecting the Doctor Evans of whom you made inquiry, that have been furnished by Mr. Forsyth's last despatches from Mexico, received yesterday.

These items, I regret to say, are very meagre and unsatisfactory—the more so, as I fear they will fail to enable you to identify the person mentioned. The allusions to Doctor Evans are contained in the following sentences:

John W. Park, of Guaymas, in a letter of the 1st ultimo, to Mr. Forsyth, referring to the massacre of the Americans, says: "The Mexicans also killed a Dr. Evens, who has no connexion with Crabb."

Charles Edward Evans, of California, a lad fifteen years of age, who alone of Crabb's party was spared by the Mexicans, having been released, made a deposition before the United States vice-consul at Mazatlan, Charles B. Smith, in regard to the circumstances attending the movements and extermination of Crabb's party. In this deposition Evans further declares that the expedition "remained at Fort Yuma one week," [having arrived there on the 27th February,] "during which time one Doctor Evans left the expedition and proceeded to Sonora alone."

By addressing a letter to Mr. Park, you may learn other particulars concerning the person to whom he refers, and who, doubtless, is the

* This despatch has no other date; it was received at the department of State 17th November.

individual who left Crabb's party at Fort Yuma. By enclosing your letter to the department it will be forwarded to the care of our minister at Mexico, whose opportunities for forwarding it to Guaymas are probably more frequent and direct than those which are available in this country.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

WM. F. EVANS, Esq., *Glasgow, Kentucky.*

Mr. W. F. Evans to Mr. Cass.

GLASGOW, November 3, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 20th last month is before me, and permit me to assure you I feel under lasting obligations to you for your promptness in giving me all the information in your power, concerning the fate of my brother, Dr. Evans, at the hands of the ruthless Mexicans.

In accordance with your suggestions, I herewith forward to Mr. Park a letter, from whom I hope to obtain more particulars of the death of my brother. I hope you will give it, as intimated in your letter, the proper direction, so that it will reach Mr. Park. I suppose his answer will return by the same route; should it do so, you will be kind enough to forward it from your department as soon as convenient.

I hope you will bear with me in troubling you in this matter, from the fact that I know your whole public character to be such as to demonstrate to me you can feel for the adversity of others.

Your friend,

W. F. EVANS.

HON. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Cass to Mr. Forsyth.

No. 32.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 7, 1857.

SIR: I enclose an open letter from Mr. W. F. Evans, of Glasgow, Kentucky, to John W. Park, Esq., of Guaymas, soliciting information respecting the Dr. Evans whose name is mentioned as one of those persons slain by the Mexicans at Caborca. You will be good enough to forward this communication to Mr. Park, and request him to transmit his reply through you to this department.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

JOHN FORSYTH, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Mr. L. W. Evans to the President.

HORN LAKE, DE SOTO Co., MISS.,
November 27, 1857.

With *reluctance* I address you this letter. I presume that every moment of your time is occupied with business of importance, as President of the United States, and I fear that you may not have time to answer this letter; but I make the venture, and hope that you may find time to read this and give me an answer.

In November last, I received a letter from a brother of mine, then in San Francisco, California, telling me that he was shortly going to start to Kentucky (where his wife was at that time;) that he should travel with Colonel Crabb and his party to Sonora, and thence through Mexico to Kentucky. I answered the letter, and urged him to have nothing to do with Colonel Crabb or his party, as I feared they might do as General Walker had done in Nicaragua. He (Dr. H. L. Evans,) left San Francisco, with Crabb and his party, in January last. My letter was forwarded and overtook him at Fort Yuma, California. He, Dr. Evans, withdrew from the expedition at Fort Yuma, several days before Crabb and his men crossed the river and entered Sonora. Dr. Evans was taken prisoner at Altar, on suspicion, as an American; he was released on parole. So soon as Colonel Crabb had been shot, the bloodthirsty Mexicans went up to Altar, from Caborca, and murdered my brother, Dr. H. L. Evans.

My object in writing to you is, to know if our government will take notice of this transaction, or shall his brothers and other relatives, as private citizens of the United States, make an effort to obtain satisfaction from the citizens of Mexico who were engaged in the murder of Dr. Evans.

Will you also be so kind as to inform me in what way I could approach Sonora and get my brother's remains, to bring back to the United States for burial? Would I have to have anything more than an ordinary passport, which I presume that I can obtain in New Orleans, or would I need any other papers to protect my person while making the search for my brother's remains?

Any information you may think proper to give me will be thankfully received.

Very respectfully,

L. W. EVANS.

Mr. JAMES BUCHANAN.

Mr. Cass to Mr. L. W. Evans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 12, 1857.

SIR: The President has referred to this department your letter of the 27th ult., making certain inquiries concerning your brother, Dr. H. L.

Evans, whom you suppose to have been murdered by the Mexicans at Altar, in consequence of his suspected connexion with Colonel Crabb's expedition.

The information which you have with regard to the identity of the murdered Dr. Evans is much more precise than that possessed by this department. A gentleman of Glasgow, Kentucky, W. F. Evans, has been in correspondence with it in relation to the deceased Dr. Evans, but the following bare allusions contain all that we know officially upon the subject.

John W. Park, of Guaymas, Mexico, writing to our minister in that country on the 1st September last, in reference to the massacre of Crabb's party, says: "They (the Mexicans) also killed a Dr. Evans, who has no connexion with Crabb;" but precisely where, or under *what circumstances*, this deed was perpetrated, it is impossible from Mr. Park's narrative to state.

The only known survivor of this ill-fated expedition is the lad Charles Edward Evans, who was released by the Mexicans after the massacre, and made a deposition touching the affair before vice-consul Smith, at Mazatlan. From it the following sentence is quoted: "The expedition remained at Fort Yuma one week, during which time one Doctor Evans left the expedition and proceeded on to Sonora alone; and after recruiting the animals at Fort Yuma, the expedition started for Sonora about the fourth of March." This statement appears to agree with your own information on this point.

In respect to your inquiry whether "our government will take notice of this transaction," I have to acquaint you that our minister was instructed, as soon as the intelligence of the Sonora massacre was received here, to demand the prompt and exemplary punishment of those who were engaged in it.

Mr. W. F. Evans, mentioned above, has written to Mr. Park for information concerning the deceased Dr. Evans, and forwarded his letter through this department. As you ask for suggestions from this quarter, it has occurred to me that you might be spared much expense, risk, and disappointment by addressing Mr. Park upon the subject, and sending your letter under cover to Mr. John Forsyth, our minister at the city of Mexico, (*via* New Orleans,) with the request that he would forward it to Mr. Park. The latter could probably inform you whether the remains of the deceased could be identified, and furnish you with other useful hints.

A passport will be transmitted to you from this department, countersigned by the Mexican minister, if you desire it.

I have deemed it an act of kindness to Mr. W. F. Evans to forward to him a copy of your letter to the President.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

L. W. EVANS, Esq.,
Horn Lake, De Soto County, Mississippi.

Mr. Cass to Mr. W. F. Evans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 12, 1857.

SIR: Since my last communication to you no further intelligence has been received from Mexico in regard to the death of your brother. But the President has referred to this department a letter from L. W. Evans, of Horn Lake, De Soto county, Mississippi, dated 27th ult., which contains some interesting but painful particulars in regard to Dr. H. L. Evans, and his murder, a copy of which I send to you, hoping thereby to relieve the suspense under which you have labored. I have advised Mr. Evans to communicate with Mr. Park before undertaking a journey into Sonora.

I am, sir, &c.,

LEWIS CASS.

WM. F. EVANS, Esq., *Glasgow, Kentucky.*

Mr. W. F. Evans to Mr. Cass.

GLASGOW, *Kentucky, December 21, 1857.*

SIR: I have just received your letter of the 12th instant, and in the first place permit me to return to you my sincere thanks for your promptness and *kindness* in this melancholy affair. The inclosed copy you sent me of the letter of L. W. Evans, of Horn Lake, De Soto county, Mississippi, addressed to the President, was also received. L. W. Evans is a brother of mine. I now have no doubt but my brother, Dr. H. L. Evans, was murdered by the Mexicans; and from what I can learn, I am also satisfied he had nothing to do with Crabb's expedition after he left Fort Yuma; and only until then as merely travelling with them to that point; nor have I yet any evidence that Crabb's expedition was a filibustering one.

I had hoped to see some allusion to this subject in the President's annual message, but he has said nothing about it.

Will you be kind enough, if not incompatible with the duties of your official position, to tell me whether this matter will be laid before Congress. I know of no course which I could pursue upon this subject, except through our government.

From the feelings which I have upon this subject, I am prompted to do all I can consistently with justice, to avenge the death of my brother, believing he was brutally murdered without cause.

Your friend,

W. F. EVANS.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State, Washington City, D. C.

Mr. L. W. Evans to Mr. Cass.

HORN LAKE, DE SOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,
December 25, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 12th instant, in answer to mine of the 27th ultimo, to the "President," has been received, for which I am very much obliged. I am under many obligations to you for your suggestions relative to writing to Mr. Park, through our minister at the city of Mexico.

I had supposed that your department was in possession of more minute information concerning the deceased Doctor Evans than it is. I hope that Mr. Forsyth, our minister, ere long will be able to place your department in possession of a full account of the massacre of Dr. H. L. Evans, in Sonora, by Mexican soldiers.

I must ask the kindness of you to transmit to me a passport to visit Mexico. My age is thirty-nine; my height 5 feet 10 inches; dark hair and gray eyes. I would like to have the privilege of entering the country at any seaport town that I might land at, and not have my stay in that country limited.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. W. EVANS.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State, Washington City.

Mr. Cass to Mr. W. F. Evans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 28, 1857.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and, in reply to your inquiry, have to acquaint you that it is not deemed expedient, at this time, to present the subject therein adverted to to the consideration of Congress, especially as full reports have not been received from the United States legation in Mexico, which the department has requested.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

W. F. EVANS, Esq., *Glasgow, Kentucky.*

Mr. Cass to Mr. Floyd.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 21, 1858.

SIR: In order that the War Department may communicate any correspondence relating to the subject, I have the honor to enclose a

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copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 18th instant, which has been referred by the President to this department, calling for information relating to the massacre of Colonel Crabb and his associates, by the Mexican authorities in Sonora.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

Mr. Floyd to Mr. Cass.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 25, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 21st instant, enclosing a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 18th instant, requesting the President of the United States to furnish information in relation to the massacre of Colonel Crabb and his associates by the Mexican authorities in Sonora, and to transmit, herewith, copies of letters from Lieutenant Sylvester Mowry, 3d artillery, in command of Fort Yuma, which is all the information in the possession of this department.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of State.

FORT YUMA, CALIFORNIA,
March 3, 1857.

COLONEL: I deem it my duty to inform you of the arrival at this point of a force numbering about one hundred and fifty men. They are under the command of *Colonel R. N. Wood*, and have any indefinite number of field and staff officers. The organization is military, and the party is well appointed in arms, clothing, and ammunition.

Some distinguished ex-members of the California legislature constitute the leaders. I understand the organization to be as follows:

General-in-chief, Henry A. Crabb.
Adjutant General, Colonel R. N. Wood.
Chief of artillery, Colonel T. D. Johns.
Quartermaster General, Colonel Watkins.
Commissary General, Colonel W. H. McCoun.
Surgeon General, Dr. T. J. Oxley.
Brigadier General, J. D. Cosby.

I, of course, have no means of officially knowing the distribution of such a force, and if I had my duty is fulfilled in communicating such knowledge to the headquarters. It is said that they are to proceed to some point in the Gadsden Purchase, near the Sonora line, and are to receive reinforcements from Texas, under command of a Major Lane. Also that a force of 1,500 men is to arrive in the Gulf, and land at some designated point with several pieces of cannon. It is also intimated that an arrangement exists of some nature with high government officials in Sonora.

It is not in the line of my duty to draw the very obvious conclusions suggested by the above facts.

With high regard, your obedient servant,

SYLVESTER MOWRY,

1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery, Commanding Post.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General United States Army, Washington, D. C.

I have omitted to state, that the daily routine of military duty, mounting guard-officer of the day, and an attempt at severe discipline by inflicting punishment, characterizes the expedition.

FORT YUMA, CALIFORNIA, *March 3, 1857.*

The memorandum below may not be without interest, as illustrating the character of the leaders of the expedition, and their influence in this State.

General Crabb, ex-State senator, and leader of the whig and know-nothing parties.

Colonel Wood, ex-member of the legislature, Fillmore national executive committee, and Fillmore elector for California.

Colonel McCoun, ex-member of the legislature of California.

Dr. T. J. Oxley, ex-member of the legislature; two terms served whig and know-nothing leader.

J. D. Cosby, *now* State senator from Siskiyon.

Captain McKinney, formerly in Colonel Doniphan's command, and late member of California legislature.

Lieutenant Henry, ex-member of California legislature.

Two ex-members of California legislature—Messrs. Wade and Taliaferro—now recruiting in California.

Most of the above were party leaders, and men of influence in their districts.

T. D. Johns, chief of artillery and graduate of the Military Academy, and late lieutenant United States army.

SYLVESTER MOWRY,

1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery, Commanding Post.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

FORT YUMA, CALIFORNIA, *March 18, 1857.*

COLONEL: The so-called Arizona Colonization Company left this point on the 12th instant.

They left pursuant to "general orders," fixing time of marching, amount of baggage allowed, and order of march. These orders were in due military form, and signed: "By order of the Commander-in-Chief, R. N. Wood, Adjutant General."

Their march across the desert will probably be accompanied with severe suffering, and probably loss of life. Re-enforcements to the number of some eight or ten hundred men, it is said, will join at the appointed rendezvous, and I am convinced that a very considerable amount of capital is embarked in the enterprise.

It is said that the late State treasurer and State comptroller of this State are among those largest interested pecuniarily. Both of these officials are under impeachment by the legislature for embezzlement from the State treasurer to the amount of three hundred thousand dollars; and the ex-treasurer is also criminally indicted for felony.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SYLVESTER MOWRY,

1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery, Commanding.

Colonel S. COOPER,

Adjutant General, U. S. A., Washington City, D. C.

